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Middlebury Students for Justice in Palestine hosts teach-in, as over 500 alumni sign letter on Israel-Palestine war

By JONATHAN EATON
Staff Writer

COURTESY PHOTO

Middlebury's Students for Justice in Palestine Nov. 2 teach-in drew a large crowd for its various student and faculty speakers.

Over 250 students attended "Gaza in Context," a teach-in event led by Middlebury Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) on Wednesday, Nov. 1, featuring perspectives from members of the Middlebury community, students and faculty. The teach-in came at a time when SJP has been circulating a letter with over 500 signatories calling for the college administration to take a stronger stand condemning what they identified as human rights abuses against Palestinians.

The teach-in event focused on information and the history behind the conflict in order to lean into Middlebury's role as an educational institution, according to Joshua Glucksman '25, co-president of SJP and event co-organizer. Glucksman shared his perspective on the gathering and why it included a range of speakers and different forms of information.

"Not only is so much of this war emotional and experiential, but we actually reproduce harmful narratives if we solely focus on numbers and facts, which is why we had poetry and prose in addition to the political background," Glucksman wrote in a message to The Campus.

The organizers arranged the 20 speakers in an effort to have an intersectional approach to the conflict, centering faculty and Palestinian voices as well as students from all backgrounds.

"To have someone speaking from a queer perspective about Israeli pink-washing, to an environmental perspective about Palestinian food sovereignty is one example of the success of our interdisciplinary teaching," Glucksman wrote.

Student leaders from a variety of groups, including the Muslim Student Association, the Environmental Science department, Middlebury's Amnesty International club, Middlebury West Asian and North African Students, Middlebury Black Student Union and the Middlebury South Asian Student Association gave remarks in solidarity with the Palestinian cause.

"I believe all of us who hail from parts of the world that once suffered under western colonial rule have a duty to stand up for each other — historically as well as today," wrote Yuvraj Shah '26, co-secretary of the South Asian Student Association, in a message to The Campus.

The variety of speakers invited by SJP was appreciated by students who attended the event."I think it was great that there were so many different viewpoints that were acquired from all over campus just for this one topic. That there were so many people from different organizations just to speak on this was very special," said Islam Abushareah '26.5, a student who attended the teach-in.

Other students who attended the teach-in event reflected on their own experiences in order to connect their personal heritage and identities to the historical context of Palestine.

"It is important for me, as a third-generation Tibetan refugee, to attend this event. The struggles faced by the people in Gaza resonate closely with the experiences of our ancestors. I learned about different perspectives tied with the Palestinian struggle, and how they collectively contribute to decolonizing imperial power" said Tenzin Youtso '26, an attendee at the event.

Professor of History Febe Armanios began the talk by providing historical context on the lasting impact of colonialism in the Middle East, tracing it back to the Ottoman Empire. Armanios explained how the deliberate establishment of geographic boundaries by the British Empire fostered ethnic conflicts and connected those legacies of British colonialism to the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict over land. She concluded her speech by emphasizing that the modern status of Palestine is rooted in this history and that the current situation remains untenable.

"The status quo is simply not

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Middlebury grieves death of Ivan Valerio '26

By MAGGIE REYNOLDS
Editor in Chief

Ivan Valerio '26 passed away on Tuesday, Nov. 7 at Middlebury College. Valerio, 19, was found outside of Gifford Hall early Tuesday morning.

A native of Kissimmee, Fla., Valerio arrived on campus in the fall of 2022 and quickly became involved in campus life. He had not yet declared a major, but Valerio was interested in Japanese and computer science, according to a message to the college community from President Laurie Patton and Vice President for Student Affairs Smita Ruzicka on Nov. 7.

While the circumstances of Valerio's death are unknown at this time, the Middlebury Police Department determined there was no foul play and there is no danger to the campus or surrounding community.

Valerio showed a deep interest in Japanese language and culture, according to Linda White, associate professor of Japanese studies and chair of the department.

"He developed good friendships through his classes and shared interests in Japan," White wrote in an email to The Campus. "His friends and teachers are devastated by his sudden death. Valerio was an

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MIDDLEBURY MAPLE RUN HALF-MARATHON DRAWS 450 COMPETITORS, MORE THAN DOUBLING LAST YEAR'S PARTICIPATION

By MADELEINE KAPTEIN
Local Editor

STEVE JAMES / THE ADDISON INDEPENDENT

Over 450 runners participated in the Maple Run this year.

The Middlebury Maple Run was extra sweet this year, with students and local residents of all age groups coming out this past Sunday, Nov. 5. to crowd the starting line to the run, dubbed "Vermont's Sweetest Half Marathon & Relay."

Middlebury students Samuel Robertson '26 came in first and Sam Merriam '26 in second place in the men's category of the half-marathon event, with times of 1:17:29 and 1:17:48, respectively. Alex Hollander '26 came in second place behind Rutland, Vt. resident Meredith Steinmetz in the women's category with a time of 1:34:57.

The half-marathon course started and ended outside of Porter Medical Center. Participants ran on a combination of paved, gravel and trail dirt surfaces, beginning on South Street before making their way along the 13.1 mile course on Weybridge Street, Morgan Horse Farm Road, Sheep Farm Road and South St. Extension. Parts of the course also passed through Middlebury's campus and the Trail Around Middlebury.

Finishers were treated to a complimentary post-race breakfast. and winners were rewarded with bottles of Vermont-made maple syrup. The event also included a two-person relay race option, with each runner completing half of the 13.1-mile course, and a three-mile fun run event. With 450 runners registered by race day and a few dozen more registering the morning of, the Maple Run drew in over two and a half times last year's 175 runners, Angelo Lynn, editor and publisher of the Addison Independent and one of the organizers of the race told The Campus by email.

The Maple Run was the longest race Robertson has ever completed. A member of his high school's track and cross country teams, Robertson found a good group of runners with whom to train after coming to Middlebury, including Merriam, he told The Campus.

Merriam considered running the Vermont City Marathon in Burlington last spring, which piqued his and Robertson's interest in training for a marathon together. The two used the Maple Run as a training step toward their ultimate goal of the Vermont City Marathon this spring.

"I knew we would be among the faster people but I didn't know what time I was going to run, I was really pleasantly surprised by the time," Robertson said. "I was quite ecstatic to see that [Merriam] came in right behind me. We had both been shooting for a sub 1:21 because that's a

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ADUL SAMON '27, SURVIVOR OF THE 2018 THAI CAVE DISASTER, SHARES EXPERIENCE, RECEIVES MEDIA ATTENTION

By BECCA CLARK
Contributing Writer

JON REIDEL / COURTESY PHOTO

Adul Samon '27 spoke with NBC's Today Show on Oct. 21 about his journey from surviving the 2018 cave disaster to joining Middlebury's first-year class.

While Adul Samon '27 is adjusting to the challenges of settling into life at Middlebury like many other first-year students, he is no stranger to difficult situations.

Samon was one of 12 boys rescued after they became trapped in a cave in Thailand in 2018. The boys, along with their soccer coach, Ekkapol Chantawong, were trapped in Tham Luang Cave in Northern Thailand for 17 days after heavy rain blocked the path out of the cave. Samon and his teammates have received international media attention for the situation over the past five years. Most recently, NBC's Today Show came to Middlebury earlier this semester to film a feature on Samon.

The soccer team had been exploring the caves when the water began rising rapidly. Samon and his teammates fled deeper into the caves to escape the water, and became trapped in an air pocket roughly four kilometers from the entrance to the cave, according to the New York Times.

"It was a mix of feelings: scared, hopeless, everything. I think we experienced all the emotions," Samon told The Campus.

While trapped in the cave, Samon said, he and his teammates and coach relied on hope to get them through.

"We couldn't do anything," he said. "We tried for like the whole nine days, but we couldn't do anything. So the only way that we could hope you know, was for people to come in and help get us out. So we always had the hope that people would come eventually."

International teams of rescuers and volunteers assembled to search for Samon and his teammates before they eventually located them. But after British divers discovered all of them alive, the challenge became figuring out how to get them out.

"We didn't talk to people from the outside world, we didn't see light, we didn't hear the sounds of anything. Then, after we saw a single person, a living person, it was just like oh wow, all the hope that we had, you know, it just became real. The hope that we had, it's not just hope, it's real, they found us," Samon said. "The next thing was, were we going to be able to get out?"

The rescue was no easy feat. The path out of the cave was mostly flooded, and some sections were extremely narrow. None of the boys had any diving experience, and the journey took experienced divers several hours to complete. On top of this because it was the beginning of Monsoon season, additional heavy rain threatened the rescue efforts.

Samon and the others were given an anesthetic to render them unconscious and prevent them from panicking while the divers led them out of the cave. All 12 of the boys and their coach were carried out of the cave over the course of a few days.

"I regained consciousness in the hospital, so I didn't really know much of the process or what was happening when they got us out," Samon said.

When he later woke up, he said, it felt like a miracle.

"We were hopeless, right? And we didn't know what we were going to do. We weren't sure that we were going to be able to get out," he said. "When I woke up in the hospital, I just felt like, wow, this is a miracle. This is impossible."

Although Samon was only 14 at the time, he was recognized for being instrumental in the rescue by using the small amount of English he knew at the time to communicate with rescuers.

"I was just doing what I had to do, what I needed to do," he said. "I was able to use my skill of speaking English to communicate with the British divers, but that was it. I wasn't really able to communicate a lot, I just knew a little bit of basic conversation."

Though it was certainly an experience he says he will never forget, Samon does not feel like the time spent in the cave impacted his life in a negative way.

"A lot of people worried about us, me and my friends. They worried that the bad experience would show up again. But for me, I don't feel like the experience affected me at all, because it didn't really do anything for me in a negative way. But instead, I feel like from that experience I learned a lot and I grew a lot. Just like how to endure in a tough situation," Samon said.

Samon even cited some positive outcomes from the disaster. He said that after being in the cave with the other boys for such a long period of time, and trying to survive with them, they all became very close and still feel very connected.

The accident and subsequent media attention also resulted in educational opportunities for Samon. He had not previously considered continuing his education in the United States but after being rescued he was offered the opportunity to finish high school at the Masters School, a private school in Dobbs Ferry, N.Y.

High school in the United States brought its own challenges for Samon. When he arrived at the Masters School as a sophomore, he only knew very basic English.

"Not speaking English, and then coming to the United States and actually having to learn, but not in my native language was really, really tough," he said. "But I went through it, because that's what I really wanted."

Samon lived with a host family in New York throughout his high school years, including during the Covid-19 pandemic, and he grew very close to them.

When Samon graduated from the Masters School last spring, Rick Stanton, one of the British divers who helped rescue Samon and the other boys, attended the ceremony. "It was so nice to see him, it was really lovely," Samon said.

Samon initially learned about Middlebury as a result of the media attention he received. In 2019, President Laurie Patton awarded Samon with the Inaugural Global Citizens Award for his instrumental role in the rescue. When he visited Middlebury in 2020 to accept the award, Samon said he already felt a connection to the school.

During his stay in Vermont to receive the award, Samon met three Thai students who attended Middlebury. They helped with translating and shared their experiences at the college, which Samon said really sold him on Middlebury.

"I felt like I already had connections and stuff like that, and I love it here. So I just thought, why not apply?" he said.

His spotlight in the news continued when he arrived at Middlebury as a student himself.

On Oct. 21, a team from NBC's Today Show visited Middlebury to interview Samon for an upcoming feature about his story. The team filmed in Axinn Center for the Humanities and in Samon's dorm room. Prior to filming the segment at Middlebury, the team filmed Samon and his host family at his high school in New York. The segment is set to air on the Today Show in mid-November.

"The experience for me, is something I can't forget about," he said. "It's my experience and I want to share it now. So that's why having a movie about my story is just really nice."

There have also been multiple movies and documentaries made about the rescue. Samon said he feels they have been true to his experience, and that the producers did a great job making them. But of the actual rescue, Samon doesn't remember much.

"We didn't know much about getting out," he said. "I heard after that it was a really tough decision to help get us out of the cave, because it wasn't easy with the water and the rain. They were scared, right? And they really needed to make a careful decision."

So far, Samon said, his experience at Middlebury has been even better than he expected.

"I'm loving this place," he said. "The people here especially, and also the professors, they are just really approachable. Because I need it. Because I know that college is not going to be easy, so to be able to talk with professors and you know, ask for help, it's very nice."

Despite the media coverage he has received over the last five years, right now Samon is mostly interested in the same things other Middlebury students are. He hopes to continue settling into life at Middlebury, and focusing on his schoolwork. He wants to play more soccer next fall and find some time to play volleyball during J-Term.

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viable," Armanios said to the crowd.

Kaveh Abu Khaleel '26, co-president of SJP, shared their perspective on how students of Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) identities are not supported at Middlebury in a message to The Campus.

"One of the biggest problems that students of MENA background face on this campus is invisibility — that our lives and backgrounds are treated as something far far away, as conflicts that uprooted our lives are treated as intellectual exercises," Khaleel wrote. "Middlebury needs to reckon with the fact that admitting MENA students means recognizing their presence on this campus and in these very classes, and protecting our right to live and resist."

Wafic Faour, a local Palestinian refugee, also spoke about his experience. Faour stated that three words that sum up the Palestinian experience are occupation, genocide and apartheid. He told attendees that the only way to find justice is by fighting Israeli apartheid.

Student leaders for SJP also read the letter signed by over 500 alumni criticizing the college administration's response to the Israel-Palestine crisis. The letter calls on the administration to support a ceasefire in Gaza, issue a statement condemning Israel's human rights violations and take actions to protect free speech on campus and protect the expression of pro-Palestinian views. Middlebury issued a statement on Oct. 9, entitled "Response to the War in Israel, Palestine," which acknowledged "the untold pain, suffering, and loss of life unfolding from the violence happening now in Israel and Palestine."

The letter took issue with the college's statement and what it saw as a lack of historical context provided to students.

"We were disappointed to see a letter from the administration on October 9th that purported to uphold these same values, but, in reality, contributed to a misguided and empty stance on Israel's war in Gaza," the letter reads. "Statements like Middlebury's wholly and willingly ignore and erase the power differential between Palestine and Israel."

The letter also referenced the Jewish lives vigil on campus on Oct.7, calling it a manifestation of the larger anti-Palestinian culture in America. "We were frustrated to see the way our alma mater promoted and handled the problematic Jewish lives vigil," the letter reads.

Middlebury alumni who signed the letter shared their reasoning for signing it with The Campus, explaining that they were disappointed to see their alma mater not take a strong moral stance against the deaths of Palestinians.

Amer Shurrab '08 told The Campus that he believes the college's statement failed to meet its bare minimum moral obligation of condemning violence against Palestinian civilians and protecting the free speech of pro-Palestinian advocates on campus.

"The response of the administration is a microcosm of the wider American society. It fails to recognize Palestinians as humans. Middlebury's official statements, going back decades, never mentions the illegal Israeli occupation of Palestine, and Israel's apartheid in Gaza and the West Bank," Shurrab wrote, explaining how he believes the college did not provide sufficient historical context about Israeli occupation of Palestine in its initial statement. "I signed the letter because I believe my beloved alma mater should stand up for justice and equality and not with occupation and oppression."

Shurrab also discussed how this issue has great personal significance to him as a Middlebury alumnus with family in Gaza who has been directly affected by the invasion by Israel and the growing humanitarian crisis.

"Today, my brother and sister and their 6 kids live in Gaza. Israel destroyed my sister's home. They have not had electricity in weeks. It takes them 10 hours to get a loaf of bread every day, and hours to get enough water for a day. They watch as Israeli bombs drop around them, try to comfort their kids, and wonder if they are the next Israeli target," he wrote.

Other alumni who signed the letter echoed Shurrab's objections to Middlebury's Oct. 9 statement as insufficient, characterizing Middlebury's lack of subsequent statements as a moral failure of the institution at which they once studied.

"Middlebury's leadership is out-of-step not only with current students, but also more than 500 alums who stand in solidarity with Palestinian freedom. As an anti-Zionist Jew, I am proud to be one of them," Maya Goldberg-Safir '12.5, a signatory to the SJP letter, wrote in an email to The Campus. "The College is not only shirking away from naming a genocide occurring in plain sight, but also failing to support its own students rightly demanding ceasefire."

Jacob Udell '12 also signed the alumni letter and shared how his perspective working in the West Bank and witnessing violence against Palestinians there has informed his desire to see the college more strongly support SJP.

"As a Jewish alum who grew into my politics at Middlebury and then living in Israel / Palestine after graduation, I find it deeply upsetting that the College continually seems unable to stand for the right of SJP and other faculty and students to speak out against Israeli atrocities past and present," Udell wrote in an email to The Campus. "Students and faculty with the courage to bring these things to light should be celebrated. That the College refuses to protect them from being harassed or reassure them that they are not at risk of being punished is astonishing to me."

"The College's original official statement felt so general to me, like it could fit any crisis if tweaked, and it feels very full of platitudes especially in light of every development since October 7," Becca Amen '22, another signatory of the letter wrote in a message to The Campus. "Students can and should more and more urgently expect a new statement from a community leader that addresses the particularities of this humanitarian disaster."

Student leaders for SJP echoed these calls for further support for Palestine at the college, as they hope to transform the attention and strong attendance received at the teach-in last week into concrete actions.

"Awareness is only meaningful if it translates into action," Mars Etgu '26, a member of SJP, wrote in a message to The Campus. "I appreciate everyone showing up and being willing to learn. There are many ways of participating without publicizing it, so don't let that fear stop you from acting. Also, considering the privilege that an American citizenship has, I'd really encourage pro-Palestinian Americans to get out of their comfort zone for the sake of showing support."

The SJP teach-in and letter together have brought hundreds of students and alumni together to address Middlebury's response to the Israel-Gaza war and what many of the letter's signatories view as both a betrayal of the institution's values and a sign of the college's disengagement from the ongoing conflict.

"It's clear Middlebury is becoming increasingly alienated from the current political reality. Generations of alums will never forget this moment," Goldberg-Safir said.

Editor's note: Editor in Chief Maggie Reynolds '24 and Managing Editors Katie Futterman '24 and Ryan McElroy '25 contributed reporting to this article.

College runs flu vaccine clinics for students, employees, shares information on managing winter illnesses

By SUSANNA SCHATZ
Senior News Editor

As the weather gets colder, respiratory illnesses become more common, particularly in communal living environments like college campuses. In an effort to curb this, Middlebury is offering free flu vaccine clinics for all students and employees in October and November.

In an email sent to students on Oct. 16, Alison Finch, director of Health Services, wrote that while the flu vaccine is not required for students, it is strongly recommended.

Barbara McCall, associate vice president for student health and well-being, described to The Campus the heightened risk of illness on a college campus, which falls under the definition of a congregate living setting due to many people living in close proximity with high use shared spaces like restrooms and dining halls. For those reasons, Middlebury recommends students get a flu shot.

"The best way to prevent risks from the flu and its complications is to get vaccinated. We want our students to be able to focus on being students, and illness can get in the way of that," Finch wrote in an email to The Campus.

Middlebury offers the flu vaccine for students both at the clinics and at Health Services, but Mark Peluso, Middlebury's chief health officer and college physician, urged students to sign up online for a flu vaccine clinic. "I think these flu clinics are a great option, and they preserve appointments at health services for other types of visits. I encourage students to go ahead and get a flu vaccine," Peluso said in a video about the vaccine clinics released by the college on Oct. 24.

Middlebury partners with Addison County Home Health and Hospice to run both the student and employee flu vaccine clinics. This partnership allows Health Services to remain open during these clinics, as the clinics are staffed by employees from both places, according to McCall.

Middlebury ordered 800 flu vaccines to arrive throughout the fall, and hopes to administer all of them, McCall said. She noted that in past years, flu vaccines were required for students due to the overlap in symptoms between the flu and Covid-19. The flu vaccines are not being mandated by the college this year.

In addition to getting vaccinated, Finch wrote that good personal hygiene can also prevent viral infections. She recommended thorough hand washing, avoiding close contact with people who are sick and getting at least seven to eight hours of sleep each night.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also recommends that everyone over the age of five get the updated Covid-19 vaccine. This vaccine, which was released in September, was formulated to protect against the most prominent strains of Covid-19 currently in the U.S. The new Covid-19 vaccine is not available on campus like the first Covid-19 vaccine was in the spring of 2021. Only pharmacies and doctor's offices currently offer the updated vaccine. Middlebury's student and employee health insurance covers vaccines for the flu, Covid and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) at in-network pharmacies and doctor's offices, which can be found online.

The CDC anticipates the flu, Covid-19 and RSV will be the most prevalent viruses this winter and predicts a similar number of related hospitalizations as last year. The new Covid-19 vaccine has thus far not been nearly as popular among Americans as previous doses were: As of Oct. 14, only 7% of adults and 2% of children had gotten the vaccine, according to the New York Times.

"CDC is predicting a busy respiratory illness season this winter, and we have three vaccine recommendations that will help us combat the risk of severe disease," Peluso said in the video, referring to the vaccines available for the flu, Covid-19 and RSV.

Finch suggested that students who become ill this winter reach out to Health Services for support. "This might include suggestions for symptom management, an in-person visit at Health Services, or a referral to other services in the community," she wrote.

The on-campus flu vaccine clinics are well underway — the employee clinics took place in mid-October, and the student clinics were offered twice already on Oct. 19 and Oct. 24 with one more coming up on Nov. 10 from 12–3 p.m. in the Abernathy Room in Axinn Center. Students can sign up for the flu vaccine clinic online through the student health portal.

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important part of our community."

A dual citizen of the Philippines and the United States, being Filipino was a strong part of Valerio's identity, according to members of the Student Life team who knew him. Valerio participated in First at Midd and found community among friends and mentors at the Anderson Freeman Center, Dean of First-Year Experience Jen Sellers noted in the message.

"He radiated kindness and was always quick to express his appreciation, including his thankfulness for being a part of the team of Orientation Leaders who welcomed new students to campus this year," Sellers wrote.

According to the message, friends described Valerio as a "sweet and giving person." He was the treasurer of the Southeast Asian Society and a member of J-Club, a student organization highlighting Japanese culture, Middlebury College Chess Club, Radical Asians, MiddVolunteers, German Club and the Middlebury College Activities Board.

"We have been in contact with Ivan's family and will provide our full support as they process this loss," Patton and Ruzicka wrote in the message.

In an email to students on Wednesday afternoon, the Student Government Association (SGA) offered their care and support to the whole Middlebury community in wake of Valerio's passing. "As fellow students and your SGA, we ask that you take any measures necessary to take care of yourself, whether that is practicing your routine, or taking some time off for yourself to reflect," the SGA wrote.

Both the SGA email and message from Patton and Ruzicka pointed to resources available to the college community in the wake of this news, including TimelyCare, College Counseling, Charles P. Scott Center for Spiritual and Religious Life Chaplains, Care Management and the Department of Public Safety.

Patton and Ruzicka wrote that the administration will share more information about plans to remember Ivan in the coming days and encouraged the college community to continue taking care of themselves and one another.

The Campus plans to publish an article in memoriam of Ivan Valerio with stories from family, friends and peers in the coming weeks. If you would like to contribute memories of Valerio for this story, please email The Campus at campus@middlebury.edu.

Student-run bar on campus offers alternative social scene, encourages responsible drinking

By SUSANNA SCHATZ
Seniors News Editor

SUSANNA SCHATZ / THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Seniors (left to right) Cody Mattice, William Fenimore and Ethan DeMaio practiced their bartending as student workers at Catamount.

The Catamount, a student-run bar which aims to provide a social environment different from the traditional party scene at Middlebury, hosted its first event of the fall semester last week. Approximately 150 juniors and seniors attended the event held in Atwater Dining Hall on Thursday, Nov. 2.

The bar featured drinks available for purchase, including beer, wine and seltzers, as well as free non-alcoholic beer from Athletic Brewing Co., in addition to goldfish, nuts and berries. Two student bands, Middlebury Jazz Messengers and Brühm, played live music as students gathered and enjoyed each other's company.

Shane Silverman '24.5 and Marc Chu '24 co-founded the bar, which hosted two events last spring. Silverman and Jaden Roderique '24 co-organized the event last week.

Silverman shared the aspects of the nightlife at Middlebury with which he is dissatisfied that ultimately led him to want to create this alternative, noting the potential for negative experiences when heavy drinking is the norm.

"You can't talk to anybody, or like connect with your peers and build relationships when you're too drunk — it leads to bad decisions and bad nights, and in response to that we wanted to create an environment where that doesn't have to be the case, so responsible drinking is a huge part of it," Silverman said.

The Catamount aims to create a space in which students could drink a little or not at all while still connecting with one another in a casual setting.

Aine Powers '24, who was in attendance on Thursday night, agreed with Silverman's desire for a space in which slower-paced drinking was the norm.

"I appreciated having a more laid back drinking/socializing opportunity," Powers wrote in a message to The Campus. "I also thought it was cool to see students take initiative to come up with more nightlife on campus, since I think that's something people have always felt could be improved!"

Silverman was pleasantly surprised by the turnout at the event. He expected students to stop by briefly but was glad when many stayed.

"I think the idea was that they would just stop by and see what it was like, and then go to bar night [at Two Brothers Tavern]," he said. "But everybody seemed to like the music and the vibe enough that they never left, so I think that was pretty cool that it went from just somewhere to stop by to somewhere to spend the whole night."

To spread the word about the student-run bar, Roderique emailed around 700 members of the senior Feb, senior and Super Senior Feb class years. They were told that IDs would be checked at the door to ensure that only students of legal drinking age attended the event.

The downstairs of Two Brothers Tavern, where of age students often go on Thursday nights, was closed that night.

Charlotte Shapiro '24 attended the event and said that while she enjoys Middlebury's typical nightlife scene, she liked the change of pace that the Catamount provided.

"It was a great experience, I really enjoyed the bands that they had, and I also liked the variety of drinks that they were serving, especially the Vermont local ones like Fiddlehead," Shapiro said.

Indie pop-rock band Brühm was second in the lineup of student bands to play at the Catamount on Thursday night. Lead singer Jacob Bradley '24 was excited to play in front of other students again after what he described as a quieter-than-usual fall semester in the on-campus music scene.

"Playing at the Catamount was a huge joy because with the tragic loss of the Mill basement the music scene on campus has taken a big hit this fall, and it's been much harder to find good venues to play. People seemed very excited to hear live music and we had a lot of people out on the dance floor," Bradley said. "We all had a great time."

The two events Catamount held last spring took place in the Mahaney Arts Center. While those events went well, Silverman said he prefers the Atwater location. Holding the event in the dining hall meant that Silverman and Roderique were able to work directly with Dining Services to plan the night instead of coordinating with Events Management, like they did last semester.

Dan Detora, executive director of food service operations, told The Campus that he thinks the student-run bar is a valuable event for students.

"It keeps students on-campus and not drinking and driving, it teaches responsible drinking and for the student workers it shows what it takes to run an operation," Detora wrote.

The location change streamlined the planning process, according to Silverman. For example, the alcohol served at the Catamount was stored in the basement cooler in Atwater, simplifying setup to bringing it upstairs rather than transporting it across campus to the Mahaney Arts Center. The drinks came from Dining Services' supply that is typically used for college events, and the money made from drink sales at the Catamount will go back to Dining Services. The student bartenders were hired as catering employees and were paid an hourly wage.

Shapiro found the $7 she paid for her drink at the bar to be reasonable. "It's obviously a little bit more expensive than if you're buying a pack for yourself at one of the stores in town," she said. "But I think for the experience of getting to go with friends and having drinks served for you, I thought it was pretty reasonable pricing."

Detora and Silverman agreed that the event went well overall. Silverman hopes to continue improving their implementation of policies around serving alcohol at a college event.

"This was our third time doing it and this was the first time I felt like we really met our goal of creating an inclusive environment for people to socialize," Silverman said. "Moving forward, I definitely want to build upon that."

SUSANNA SCHATZ / THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Brühm, a student indie pop rock band, played during the second half of the event, drawing a crowd of students to dance in the center of Atwater Dining Hall.

MAPLE RUN MORE THAN DOUBLES TURNOUT

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qualifying time for a New York marathon, so to run the 1:17 was really satisfying."

The Maple Run was Hollander's second half marathon, her first being this past summer in her home state of New Jersey. Her father, Jason Hollander, came in third in the race with a time of 1:18:17, landing both father and daughter in the top three finishers for their respective categories.

Hollander described seeing her friends both in the race with her and from the sidelines cheering her on, witnessing the scenic Vermont views and being in the race with her father as highlights of the experience.

Dani Ortiz '25.5 and Caroline Jaffe '26 participated as teammates in the relay event. Ortiz, who ran the half-marathon on her own last year, ran the first seven miles of the course this year before handing off to Jaffe to run the second part.

"Distance was challenging in its own way each year," Ortiz said. "But the runners definitely all support each other as we all try to reach our personal goals."

Camilla Salwen '25.5 decided to run the Maple Run with her friend Lindy Kessler '25.5 this summer, preparing through regular runs of around three miles and one longer run per week.

"Because it was literally in Middlebury, there were so many people I knew running it which I was a little intimidated by at first, but it was actually really fun on race day to see everyone and to have random people that I ran into to run with," Salwen told The Campus.

COURTESY PHOTO/STEVE JAMES, ADDISON INDEPENDENT

Agnes Roche '24 ran her first Maple Run, and fourth half-marathon to date.

Salwen added that the second part of the race was a six mile out-and-back on South Street Extension, which made it fun to see other runners in both directions.

"You see people who aren't running anywhere close to your speed passing you and you get to cheer for them," she said.

According to Robertson, the most challenging part of the course was one particularly steep hill on the Class of 1997 trail on the TAM. The hills in the Maple Run's course were steeper than any other race he had previously run, Robertson said. Salwen and Hollander agreed, citing the hill on South Street in the final mile of the race as particularly challenging.

Still, Robertson said he had a great experience running the race. "A couple of our friends paced us down Sheep Farm Road and through campus and that felt so good and satisfying," he said. "Running is so much easier when you can share the load with other people and they were doing an excellent job pacing and so that really gave us the confidence to finish the race."

This year's Maple Run was organized by the Addison Independent newspaper. The race was created by a group of local runners in 2009, originally named for its occurrence at the end of the maple sugaring season in the spring, according to Lynn.

The runners then formed a nonprofit organization with a board of trustees to put on the race each year, of which Lynn was a part. As the race's popularity grew, the board passed on the planning responsibilities to the Addison County Chamber of Commerce, who put on the race annually until the Covid-19 forced it to come to a halt in 2020 and 2021. The Addison Independent stepped in to bring the race back in 2022.

Organizing the run each year requires months of planning in advance to manage registrations, figure out lodging and parking for runners, and plan for the closure of parts of Route 30 and Route 125 on race day, Lynn wrote. He added that they aim to make the mile markings on the course as accurate as possible so that the top runners can pace themselves properly.

The organizers also had to find about two dozen volunteers to hand out beverages and stand at crosswalks at various points throughout the race. They also enlisted help from the Addison County Sheriff's Department and Middlebury Police Department to control traffic, as well as situating medical professionals at five aid stations along the course in the case of an emergency.

All race finishers received wooden medals from Middlebury-based Maple Landmark Woodcraft, Lynn added. The race also provided maple leaf-shaped jars filled with maple syrup from Breadloaf View Farm in Cornwall, Vt. to the first, second and third place finishers in each category. The jars were etched with the 2023 Maple Run logo.

For Lynn, the preparation required for putting on the run was worth it.

"It puts the town on the map for hosting a major run," he wrote. "Events like these, as well as the TAM Trek, and Vermont Sun's summer triathlons and half marathon at Lake Dunmore, all attract young families to the area and set a model of a community that embraces a healthy outdoor lifestyle."

Editor's Note: Senior Local Editor Julia Pepper '24 contributed reporting to this article.

Ilsley Public Library aims to build community through programs this fall

By KATRINA SCHWARZ
Contributing Writer

From poetry workshops to discussions on reproductive rights, the Ilsley Public Library in downtown Middlebury is offering a broad range of events this fall.

As more than just a place to house books, the library aims to be a home for enrichment, learning and safety for the Middlebury community.

"The Ilsley Public Library system enriches lives and builds community connections by providing engaging and accessible programs, services, resources, and spaces that meet evolving community needs. Library staff invite everyone in to learn, create, and collaborate. The library is a safe and friendly environment where everyone belongs," according to the mission statement on the library's website.

In an effort to fulfill this mission, the library will host events for a diverse audience over the next couple of weeks, including Middlebury students. All people need is a library card, which can be obtained for free through the library's website.

The library ran 587 programs last year, which were attended by over 8,000 people, according to Library Director Dana Hart. While program attendance dropped immediately following the Covid-19 pandemic, it has been rising again in recent years, Hart wrote in an email to The Campus.

In the next year and a half, the library will undergo construction to update the building to address safety concerns and make the space better suit community needs. Hart wrote that the library still hopes to host events while operating out of a temporary space as the current building is under construction. These events will likely have to be held at various different locations in the town of Middlebury, but the library's commitment to community enrichment will remain, she added.

COURTESY PHOTO/DANA HART

The Ilsley Public Library runs "Storytime," a program for children.

The library is hosting a program titled "How to Trust the People With Reproductive Rights" the first three Saturdays of November. Presented by Meg Mott, a former professor of political theory and constitutional law at Marlboro College, the series "considers the history of reproductive rights, the best arguments on both sides, and the work we need to govern ourselves in a pluralist society," according to the library website.

Part one of the event on Nov. 4, "The Supreme Court's role in reproductive freedom," discussed the pros and cons of using the federal courts to enact progressive legislation. Part two on Nov. 11, "What the people are saying about abortion," will consider libertarian, progressive and conservative perspectives toward abortion. The final part on Nov. 18, "What do we need to deliberate well," will explore two case studies of abortion legality in Boston and Ireland, respectively.

The Ilsley Library also hosts more lighthearted events, including poetry workshops, used book sales, and knitting and crocheting groups. The Otter Creek Poets meet on Thursdays from 1 to 3 p.m., providing a space for poets of all levels to workshop and refine their poetry, according to the library website. The poetry meetings are hybrid, with both a Zoom meeting option and an in-person option at the community room in the library.

COURTESY PHOTO/DANA HART

The library co-organized a pride parade and celebration with the Middlebury Teen Center.

"Still Hip and Happening" is a program at the library for community members seeking fun conversation, community engagement and free refreshments. The group meets weekly on Tuesdays from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. with activities such as karaoke, puzzles, visits from Homeward Bound animals and TED talks, according to the library website.

The library also offers "Fiber Flock," on Thursdays between 5 and 6 p.m., a space for people who are passionate about fiber arts to share their projects and collaborate with other creative folks.

A full calendar of events hosted by the Ilsley Public Library can be found on their website https://www.ilsleypubliclibrary.org/events/.

LIV, LOVE, LOCAL: SNOWCAP COLD BREW

Liv, Love, Local is a column highlighting local businesses of Vermont, especially cafés and restaurants in the Middlebury area. Through interviews with owners, I want to highlight the specific successes and challenges that come along with small business ownership in Vermont, the hard work owners and employees put into these businesses, and how these spots serve as places to build community and connection.

By Olivia Mueller
News Editor

Dreamt up by two roommates sharing a passion for perfecting an energizing cold brew concentrate in 2016, Snowcap Cold Brew now produces a variety of canned brews stocked at over 100 locations across Vermont.

While Lucas Lundell and Adam Marchesseault co-founded the business, Lundell has been running Snowcap on his own as a full-time venture since Marchesseault's pivot to becoming a tax preparer in 2020.

Lundell and Marchesseault began tinkering with the brew method while students at the University of Vermont, where they began their quest to craft an affordable and delicious at-home coffee for themselves and their housemates.

"A lot of our friends were consuming the cold brew that we were making faster than we had expected, just kind of disappearing out of the fridge," Lundell said. After offering it to friends in the restaurant industry, one of the duo's friends began to use their cold brew concentrate in cocktails at Drifter's, a now-closed restaurant and bar that used to be located off of Pine Street in downtown Burlington.

"It started kind of growing gradually from there," Lundell explained.

Snowcap's product has undergone many evolutions over the years as the team honed in on their ideal brew.

"We started out with a pretty strong cold brew a lot of people might consider like a cold brew concentrate," Lundell said. Ultimately, however, their product evolved to a more approachable, ready-to-drink brew strength in canned form rather than a bottled concentrate. Cold brew concentrates are intended to be watered down by the customer with their choice of milk or water before drinking, as opposed to cans sold at a strength meant to be immediately consumed.

COURTESY PHOTO/LUCAS LUNDELL
Lundell behind Snowcap's table at the Vermont Cheese Festival.

The company's current lineup includes four options — a higher-intensity espresso brew, a nitro can, a maple brew and a single-origin release in collaboration with Barre, Vt.-based 802 Coffee Roasters. Single origin coffee comes from one specific region, either a country or an individual lot.

Lundell is continuously looking to develop cans that consumers want to drink. Previous innovations include a run of a CBD-infused can in collaboration with Mansfield Provisions, a CBD company also based out of Colchester, Vt.

Outside of its collaboration with 802 Coffee Roasters, Snowcap has sourced beans from Earth Back Coffee Roasters, a micro-roaster based in South Burlington, Vt. In 2020, Snowcap moved from a production space in Barre into a larger space in Colchester in order to scale up production.

"I would say that's probably one of our biggest hurdles, was like making that leap," Lundell said of moving to a new production space. "But that allowed us to kind of get into a space... of higher efficiency, which allowed not only us to have more time to do distribution and make relationships with other producers, and actually give us more time to be more creative with what we wanted to do."

Organic growth facilitated by collaboration with local businesses and distributors has been Snowcap's strategy since the beginning. "Growing organically is probably one of the best things that we've allowed ourselves to do," Lundell said.

Along with several stores in New York and New Hampshire, Snowcap is stocked in about 100 stores throughout the state of Vermont, including the Middlebury Natural Foods Co-Op. Snowcap is one of hundreds of local products available in the grocery section and stocking local products such as Snowcap aligns with the Co-Op's mission, grocery manager Jennifer Alderson told The Campus.

Lundell has found the Vermont environment to be uniquely supportive and has strived to maintain local, organic ingredient sourcing as much as possible, while working with local production and distribution companies to scale his business.

"We've been conscious about how we source everything that we get and intentional about working with other Vermont producers because Vermonters have been good to us in the whole process of developing the business," Lundell said.

All ingredients Snowcap uses are certified organic, including the maple syrup for the maple brew from Backwoods Alchemy, an organic farm in Enosburg, Vt.

Snowcap works with Iron Heart — a mobile canning company with locations in Vermont and New Hampshire — for its production runs, and distributes via Vermont Beer Shepherd, a distributor of independently-produced beer, wine and nonalcoholic beverages such as kombucha and cold brew largely from Vermont. Working with Iron Heart has allowed Snowcap to produce about 400 cases in a day during a production run, which usually requires about a five-day preparation period.

The company's label and logo design is done by Burlington-based graphic designer Four Nine Design.

Because of the huge variety of tasks involved in Snowcap's day-to-day operations, Lundell said, it has been difficult for him to hire more full-time team members. But working with local businesses like Iron Heart and Vermont Beer Shepherd has been crucial to managing all aspects of the operation.

"It was really great for us to be able to start working with a distributor who understood us, who understood our product and who was working with stores that understood local business," he added.

Outsourcing bookkeeping, design and social media management to other businesses has allowed Lundell to focus more on initiatives critical to the long-term growth of Snowcap, he said.

Organic growth has not been without its challenges, however, including the sheer amount of labor required of a small team in order to increase the scale of a business, according to Lundell. Prior to beginning its collaboration with Iron Heart, a production day might have lasted from 8 a.m. until 3 a.m. the next day.

Lundell hopes to take advantage of extra time as cold brew production slows down in the winter months to experiment with a brew with a lower caffeine content, as well as an oat milk-infused can as an offering akin to a latte for a potential spring 2024 release.

Despite the various challenges of running a small business, Lundell finds pride in watching Snowcap's gradual spread and seeing the growth of other local businesses.

"Vermont is really unique in that sense," he said. "I think we're really lucky to have the greater community that we have in terms of the consciousness, so to speak, of supporting local business. And I don't know that I would have chosen to start Snowcap if I lived somewhere else."

On the Middlebury community's response to the Israel-Gaza war

Editorial

The editorial represents the opinion of the Middlebury Campus Editorial Board.

At Harvard University, the administration and student groups have been engulfed in controversy and doxxing after issuing statements on the Israel-Palestine conflict. At Dartmouth College, two students were recently arrested for camping out to protest the school's approach to the war. And at Columbia University, student organizations have staged huge protests, while professors have come under national scrutiny and faced petitions calling for their removal.

So, what has been going on at Middlebury recently?

President Laurie Patton issued a statement, titled "Response to Events in Israel, Palestine" on Oct. 9, and since then we have seen multiple peaceful events such as a vigil for Israeli victims on Oct. 11, interfaith panels and conflict transformation dinners, and an informational teach-in event hosted by Middlebury Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) on Nov. 1. The college has, thus far, largely avoided the controversies raging across higher education in the last month. We are grateful to everyone who has refrained from stoking conflict and hostility on campus, but we also hope that this will not manifest in widespread disengagement from the topic. We call on our community to consider how we can maintain thoughtful engagement with the Israel-Palestine conflict in a way that prioritizes authentic human connection and education.

Recent events hosted at the college have largely, in our view, been constructive and thoughtful efforts to facilitate conversations on campus. We appreciate the role that members of the Scott Center for Religious Life have played in an interfaith panel, as well as the participation of the Davis Collaborative in Conflict Transformation in hosting a recent dinner dialogue. Board members reported how these events were constructive spaces to engage with the issues by speaking honestly and discussing issues, rather than debating them.

Similarly, the informational focus at the recent SJP event helped students learn about the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. It is important to create spaces on campus where students can gather to learn from one another through means such as historical education and artistic expression to inform their perspectives on the situation, as we observed at the teach-in. We hope that more opportunities for civil discussion and education take place throughout the remainder of this semester.

If incidents of antisemitism, Islamophobia, or any kind of violence or hatred take place on campus, we expect the college to take immediate action and address the situation. Our community must remain committed to combating hatred in all forms when such incidents arise. The college administration should actively work to ensure all voices on campus are heard and respected, and that no one faces threats of violence or harassment because of their identity or beliefs.

In these times of conflict with deeply personal issues for multiple communities on campus, we urge you to turn to religious leaders, friends, family members and trusted news sources. We recently saw how the vigil organized by Middlebury Chabad and Jewish students at the college for the Oct. 7 attack brought over a hundred students, faculty and community members together in peaceful reflection. The SJP teach-in event last week was focused on education and allowed speakers from various groups to reflect on the conflict in nuanced ways. The vigil for Palestinian lives hosted by the Middlebury Muslim Students Association this afternoon, Nov. 9 will likely continue such a trend. We call on the college to continue allowing respectful events on campus that provide students with space to grieve, express their views peacefully and learn about the conflict in constructive ways.

We also acknowledge that for many people and communities on campus, this issue is deeply personal and cannot be separated from their own identities and experiences. This editorial does not seek to displace nor ignore the voices of those most affected by this issue; rather, we want to encourage everyone in our community to listen to those voices and engage in these ongoing events in order to become more educated on the conflict. We are encouraged to see dozens, even hundreds, of students turn out to have these conversations in recent weeks, and we hope this commitment to learning is not momentary, but sustained. Middlebury promises to give students "one of the most immersive and globally engaged experiences in higher education," and we should all actively work to fulfill that promise through leaning into ongoing conversations about the Israel-Palestine conflict.

We also encourage students not directly implicated in the conflict to bring the conversation into their lives by having open, honest conversations about these difficult topics. Lean on the people around you when support is needed and listen to people to whom you may have different views. Such open dialogues have helped us make sense of this conflict and gain greater insight into each other's perspectives, and we hope you consider doing so too.

Middlebury students should also consider when the most productive time to engage with these issues is, and how they can best learn about this issue without allowing burnout to turn into apathy. Prioritize sustainable engagement and education for yourself.

Oftentimes at Middlebury, activism occurs in small periods and short bursts around specific, on-campus issues — think of the 2017 Charles Murray incident, protesting the overturning of Roe v. Wade, the activism against crisis pregnancy centers at the student activities fair last year — without creating long-term plans to preserve engagement. While these issues address different concerns and involve different groups of students, we have observed a past tendency for student engagement and activism on campus to decline over time, and we urge our community to actively work against such a trend on this issue. We hope that any organizing and future events will focus on building sustainable involvement, and we urge students who may feel disconnected to be purposeful about how and when they choose to engage.

We will not resolve the ongoing conflict in Israel-Palestine at Middlebury, but we hope the college community will focus on what impact is possible to achieve on our campus. What is feasible and arguably most important for Middlebury is to create open spaces for discussion and education that embrace different perspectives. We hope that such efforts and events will strengthen, rather than divide, our community.

Sarah Says: The diversity statement is an educational imperative

Op-Ed

Sarah Miller *is a member of the class of 2024 and is an Editor At-Large for The Campus.*

On a semi-weekly basis, Sarah Miller shares her thoughts on culture and campus life.

I tried hard to write my Common App on race.

It seemed like the smart choice. Early in my college admissions process, I had gotten the sense from educators and peers that my biraciality was the only aspect of my personality that distinguished me from the hundreds of other straight-A private school brats in my application cycle who also wanted to be writers.

I submitted my drafts to a college essay consultant who returned each draft peppered with subtle notes of encouragement, though the message was the same: Try again, the topic's still not working.

The essay consultant's advice frustrated me because I knew she was right; for all the effort I had devoted, my race essay remained not just half-baked, but bad. I thought if I kept working at the topic with enough diligence I might just cut to the meat of revelation. After all, hadn't I spent all of my life as a half-Colombian? While my life has been more structured by the bountiful privileges of my upbringing than racial disenfranchisement, my race has still defined me. Why, then, did I struggle so much to articulate the shape of its influence?

Eventually, as September drew closer, I changed my approach. The Common App essay I submitted was a well-written —albeit ideologically docile —treatise on gender roles, Mock Trial, my friends and the beach.

Still, race continued to hang over my admissions process. I planned to check the Hispanic demographic question on my applications, which was often impressed upon me as a cunning act of strategy. How lucky was I to reap the benefits of a top private school while also gaining the presumed application boost from checking the diversity box?

For a while, I believed I had won the game.

Then, after several years at Middlebury, I came to a realization worthy of Faustain irony: I was not fully white. While the schools of my childhood were not bastions of diversity, I had grown up in a major city and took my fellow multicultural peers as natural and unremarkable. Yet somehow at Middlebury, I had found myself in the whitest space in my life. Not only were the overwhelming majority of my friends white, but so were the majority of my classmates (not surprising for a Creative Writing major) and my peers on the student newspaper, as well as the anonymous faces I shook my body in tandem with on Friday and Saturday nights.

In 1998, my mother, a first-generation immigrant from a poor neighborhood in Queens, arrived at Fordham University. When I was little, she told me about how she used to count the heads of the people with dark hair in the room. I never quite understood what she meant until I got to Middlebury.

I found myself conscious of my instinct to bring the conversation, whether it be among close friends or my seminars, to race. But, if at times I acknowledged my racial isolation, I let the feeling slide under the wave of my more urgent concerns, of which there were never any shortage.

This changed in the fall of 2022 when it became apparent that the Supreme Court intended to overturn its precedent upholding affirmative action. I began to follow the coverage with an intensity of outrage that surprised me.

Of course, there was the outrage on the macro level: To what extent would the impending decision set back national racial equity? However, in the very white classrooms and round tables of my very white college I found myself preoccupied with outrage on the micro level: What would it feel like for future students to attend an even whiter Middlebury?

If Middlebury wants to truly educate us in the way of global citizens then they must invest in diversity. In a climate often hostile to "identity culture," Middlebury's only hope of recruiting a diverse class lies in action.

In anticipation of the decision, Middlebury joined many liberal arts colleges in signing an amicus curiae brief with the Supreme Court in support of Harvard and the University of North Carolina. Before and after the decision was handed down, the college continued to affirm that "Middlebury has a long record of driving excellence through diversity; that value is core to our mission, and we will continue to be mission driven in our recruitment of the best students from across the country and the world."

However, in the months since Middlebury's initial statement on the decision, we have heard nothing but silence on the subject from the college. Unlike Wesleyan University, we have not ended preference for legacy admits. Unlike Harvard University, we have not overhauled our application so that students must answer five short essay questions about their life experience. And unlike Amherst, we have not made diversity growth a significant priority.

I would argue Middlebury knows exactly how their inaction will affect admissions outcomes. In the same brief they filed in the summer of 2022, Middlebury, along with schools such as Amherst College and Williams College, predicted that if the Supreme Court were to overturn affirmative action, the enrollment of Black students on their campuses would drop from approximately 7.1 percent to 2.1 percent.

Middlebury can also draw from historical precedent to understand the consequences of rollbacks to affirmative action. In 1996, when the passage of Proposition 209 banned race-conscious admissions in California, the public University of California system experienced a dramatic drop in Black and Latinx enrollment. Nearly thirty years and over half a billion dollars later, they are still struggling to reach their former levels of diversity. If California, a state far more naturally rich in racial diversity than Vermont, is still struggling to recover its previous diversity, we can only guess how long and how much money it will take for Middlebury to make a substantial recovery.

At the end of October, the Middlebury Board of Trustees gathered to promote the college's newest fundraising campaign, For Every Future. The campaign intends to raise $600 million to, among other directives, increase investment in Monterey and the Middlebury schools abroad, "strengthen our varsity athletic programs," and develop students' "21st century literacies," so students lead "engaged, consequential, and creative lives" in accordance with Middlebury's mission.

Given that Middlebury has refused to roll back legacy admissions, continues to recruit a full slate of athletes, which at schools like Middlebury is proven to function as affirmative action for white people and has yet to make public any meaningful recourse to protect diversity on campus, one is left to wonder to whose futures the college remains committed.

While I should hope that the benefits of diversity to our community are self-evident, I will take a moment to address them anyway. Across numerous disciplines, diversity has proven time and time again to foster higher levels of performance, generate more novel ideas and improve decision-making skills. If Middlebury will not be swayed by higher education's moral responsibility to educate a diverse student body, then I urge the administration to consider the practical benefits.

By failing to legitimately commit to diversity, Middlebury not only weakens the quality of our education, but also threatens to leave us less able and less qualified to "address the world's most challenging problems."

Over my time at Middlebury, I have keenly felt the essential need for racial diversity in higher education. In classes, my learning is augmented by the presence of perspectives different from my own, just as, more often than not, my learning stagnates under sameness.

As a biracial student, I have never been overly interested in how my race affected my college acceptance. With the exception of my race, all of the aspects of application were consistent with the kinds of highly privileged white students whom Middlebury readily accepts. However, I know that I will always be indebted to affirmative action.

Thanks to affirmative action, I get to attend an institution that is significantly less white than it was even ten years ago, much less fifty eight year ago when Affirmative Action became law. My education, inside and outside of the classroom, will always be improved by a diversity of perspectives.

When I think of the decision that was handed down this summer, I grieve for the students like myself who as "the diverse friend" serve as instruments of their white friends' education, but more so I grieve for students like my mother for commitments to diversity transforming the lives of the entire student body.

THE STORY OF US: ME, TAYLOR SWIFT AND "THE ERAS TOUR"

Op-Ed

Acadia Klepeis *is a member of the class of 2024 and an Arts & Culture Editor for The Campus.*

Taylor Swift is my role model.

Now, I know what you're thinking. Is a pop star with 46 Grammy nominations (including 12 wins) and an estimated net worth of over $1 billion really an appropriate role model for a graduating English major in rural Vermont? But let me explain.

It all began in middle school when I shared an iCloud account with my sister Lily, who is two years older than me. This meant that my iPod Touch had access to the music that she had chosen and downloaded on her device. Along with Lily's hand-me-down clothes, I inherited songs like "You Belong with Me," "Enchanted" and "White Horse." Swift's first four albums still blur in my mind, as I consumed all of them avidly at once without experiencing their distinct release years. Although 12-year-old Acadia had never experienced the highs and lows of high school romance, Swift's lyrics painted such a vivid picture of life in small-town America that I felt able to flash-forward a few years and imagine how my own teenage years might compare to hers. As a young woman half a generation ahead of me, Swift and her music allowed me to peek around the corner.

By 2014, I finally logged out of Lily's iCloud account and into my own, but that didn't mean I had stopped seeking out Swift's music. Rather than rural America, "1989" celebrated life in the big city with tracks like "Welcome to New York." This was especially fitting since my dad's job saw me swap my hometown in upstate New York for a temporary address in Manchester, England in the fall of 2014. Through "1989," I projected myself into the messy glamor of Swift's mid-twenties. Soon the "Reputation" album's "Delicate," and "Gorgeous" blasted alongside "Style" on my daily commute with my mom. On long family road trips in the minivan, we'd scheme about which tracks to play in an ongoing attempt to win over my dad and brother. As a middle child, I relished the exclusivity of having a common interest with my mom that my siblings didn't share. Even now, those songs maintain an unexpected maternal glow — and they resurface on every drive back to Middlebury.

Surrounded by Swiss strangers during my exchange program in 2019, Swift's familiar voice accompanied me on my daily walk to school. "Lover" came out only two weeks into my gap year, and to this day I can't look at the pastel pink album cover without a twinge of nostalgia. Swift, 30 years old at the same, had lessons to share about the happy times ("Paper Rings") and the heartbreaks ("Death by a Thousand Cuts"). I slurped them up in equal measure, as evidenced by the fact that Swift has been the top artist on my Spotify Wrapped every year since I joined the streaming service.

During the pandemic, almost every activity became more solitary, and music consumption was no exception. Swift's twin Covid-19 albums, "Folklore" and "Evermore," were explicitly story-like in a new way. Rather than letting listeners into her personal life, she invited us to step into the shoes of heiresses ("the last great american dynasty"), murderesses ("no body, no crime") and ghosts ("right where you left me"). While Swift's lyrics have always created new worlds, these were the most fantastical yet and quickly became the soundtrack to several rounds of quarantines. In addition to the celebrated trio of songs about a high school love triangle, the albums supplied the wisdom of older women, including Swift's own grandmother ("marjorie"), reminding us, "Never be so kind, you forget to be clever / Never be so clever, you forget to be kind." Given the isolation and turbulence that came with starting college during a pandemic, this big-picture reminder of our collective humanity helped ground me.

I once heard that readers tend to like books about people who are slightly older than themselves. Kids read about tweens, tweens about teens, teens about college kids and college kids about 'real' adults. My appreciation of Swift's music supports that idea. Although listeners of Swift's generation likely always saw her music as paralleling their own lives and experiences growing up, for me she was always one step ahead, encouraging me to dream about what came around the next bend.

When Swift first announced her colossal Eras Tour, I was studying abroad, giving special meaning to the "Midnights" album tracks "Paris" and "You're On Your Own, Kid." The fact that I didn't know when I would be back in the US (or where I would spend the upcoming summer) prevented me from buying tickets to the tour, although the Ticketmaster presale drama likely would have led to the same result. In the end, I spent my summer jealously eyeing the photos and videos from seemingly every Midd girlie's venture to the concert.

All that changed on Aug. 31, when Swift announced that she would be bringing her performance to theaters across the U.S. through a concert film entitled "Taylor Swift: the Eras Tour." I booked my ticket weeks in advance to ensure a velvet-covered chair on opening night.

What's magical about "The Eras Tour," aside from Swift's faultless mimicry of her original records, is its diversity. From starry-eyed sweetness in "Love Story" to raging angst in "... Ready for It?," Swift makes transitions with ease, conveying the flush of first love and the anger of abandonment in a stunning mashup of 20 years of love and losses. Beyond emotional breadth, Swift changes into a new bedazzled costume for each of the concert's 10 eras, matching the shifts in dance styles, sets and lighting design. Given the 10-year build-up, one might have expected the film to underwhelm, following the adage of "don't meet your (anti-) heroes," but instead I left the theater more confident than ever in Swift's unique talents as a songwriter and as a performer.

Spanning hundreds of self-written songs, Swift's range is unparalleled. She has a song for every sentiment, allowing listeners to tap into their own feelings and live vicariously through emotions they have yet to experience themselves. Taken in earnest, her music can make us more empathetic people, as we get to know ourselves and others better through her deftly-delivered lyrics.

If only Swift would release a song about the job search process so I could fully embrace my next Era.

JOSEPH FINDLAY '24.5/COURTESY PHOTO

Acadia Klepeis '24 and Kristen Morgenstern '24 could not hide thier excitement at the premiere of "Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour"

SPECS Panther Column #2: 5 sexual-health myths to debunk

Op-Ed

Emily Power *and* **Sophie Schuele** *are members of the class of 2023.5 and 2025 and are SPECS peer educators.*

Throughout one's experience at college, there are many opportunities to choose to engage — or not to engage — in sexual relationships. Different students across campus have widely varying backgrounds in sexual health education, and misinformation might be encountered along the way. SPECS strives to promote accessible and inclusive sex-positive education, and our column in The Campus is one of these outlets we have across campus. Here are five common myths about sex and sexual health that SPECS believes are important to clarify:

"Jokes are just jokes"

There may be times when you hear so-called humorous comments that make light of STIs, sexual assault or rape, unexpected pregnancies or other sexual-health-related issues. These kinds of jokes might not be intended to cause harm, but they can be difficult to respond to because they further stigmatize common challenges faced by college-aged students. The issue with joking about these topics is that the person cracking the joke often has no idea about the personal experiences of the people they intend to make laugh. Even one's closest friends could be living with an STI or could have a traumatic background of sexual assault that they choose not to share. We cannot assume that everyone will positively receive these types of references because they often carry a lot of weight –– especially when the subject is relevant to someone's life. Being mindful of your own word choice and leading by example to shut down potentially harmful language are the best ways to avoid contributing to a culture of shame and silence around sexual health.

"Two condoms are better than one"

You might have heard the phrase "two is better than one" in regard to birth control, but this does not mean that you should use two condoms at once. In fact, wearing multiple condoms (i.e. layering two external condoms or using both an internal and external condom) increases the risk of the materials tearing. The phrase "two is better than one" actually refers to combining two types of birth control methods: barrier and non-barrier. Barrier methods include condoms, diaphragms and cervical caps. Non-barrier methods include IUDs, birth control pills, patches, rings, implants or shots. Hormonal birth control typically refers to medications or implants that provide continuous protection against pregnancy, while non-hormonal methods are usually physical barriers that prevent a sperm from reaching an egg. However, one exception is the highly effective copper IUD, which is a non-hormonal non-barrier birth control method. Using two different forms of birth control is a good safety net to avoid pregnancy, though condoms are the only form of birth control that also protect against STIs. Talk to your medical provider and any sexual partners about the best option for you.

"If she's wet, she wants it"

It may seem intuitive to associate someone's physiological responses with their mental state. However, bodily activity can often be quite detached from a person's true feelings. The discrepancy between one's emotional desires and their physical reactions is known as arousal non-concordance. Physiological arousal can be triggered by any environmental stimuli, whether directly sexual like touch or indirectly sexual such as the temperature of the room. These stimuli are relevant to someone's feelings of pleasure, leading to involuntary bodily responses such as lubrication or an increase in genital blood flow. However, these reactions are not indicative of one's subjective sexual arousal, which refers to their mental experience during sex. This is particularly important to remember within the context of consent. If someone's body is aroused during a non-consensual sexual encounter, that doesn't mean they are enjoying it. In a similar vein, if your partner couldn't experience physical arousal during sex, that doesn't mean they're not attracted to you. There are many stimuli at play in sexual contexts to which your body may not always react the way you hope it will. Clear communication and consent are key ingredients when it comes to making sure every party feels safe, cared for and gratified.

"The goal of sex is to orgasm"

Many people define sex as "done" when one or more of the involved parties have an orgasm. Orgasming, commonly referred to as "cumming" or "climaxing," can be an exciting and pleasurable part of sex, but it does not need to be the sole purpose or end goal of engaging in a sexual act. If orgasm is something desired by one or more partners, conversations should be had about what that would entail. However, there should be no expectation that it must happen for it to be viewed as a pleasurable experience. Sex is a multifaceted, emotionally and physically intimate experience that should be enjoyable at all phases — from initiation of the activity to whenever those involved decide to stop. The capacity to experience pleasure isn't "over" as soon as orgasm has occurred. Sometimes sex can involve multiple orgasms for some partners, or it can involve none. Sometimes one partner orgasms and another doesn't. There is no right or wrong way to do it, as long as all partners are satisfied with the experience and all standards of consent are followed.

"I'll know if I have an STI"

One of the common misconceptions about STIs is that they manifest the way a common cold would — you wake up one morning with recognizable symptoms and immediately know that something's up. In reality, many STIs (especially those most common on college campuses) often occur asymptomatically. More than half of people who contract chlamydia, for instance, experience no symptoms. Gonorrhea, herpes, trichomoniasis, HPV, Hepatitis B and even HIV can also occur without recognizable symptoms, leaving many people in the dark about their health status, which could lead to worse long-term health outcomes. While this may feel scary, STI contraction can easily be avoided with the proper methods of protection. Internal and external condoms, as well as dental dams, are all very effective in preventing STI transmission. With or without protection, however, we at SPECS recommend getting tested for STIs at least once a year or between new partners to ensure safety for yourself and potential partners. Middlebury Health Services offers confidential STI testing that is free or billable depending on your insurance. Other options are available at Porter Medical Center or at the Planned Parenthood locations in Rutland and Burlington. Regular STI testing is a great way to take control of your sex life when things feel uncertain.

Ultimately, college can be a time for some to sexually explore and become more attuned with their bodies. Staying vigilant about the accuracy of sexual-health information you receive is critical to prioritizing you and your partner(s)' safety and comfortability. SPECS is here to answer any questions!

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The Middlebury Campus

"PLAYING THE LONG GAME": COCOON RETURNS TO CAMPUS AFTER MOTH-UP'S BRIEF HIATUS

By SOPHIA AFSAR-KESHMIRI
Arts & Culture Editor

Middlebury Moth-Up packed the Robison Concert Hall in the Mahaney Arts Center for the group's largent event of the year: Cocoon.

Last Friday, Nov. 3, marked the eleventh annual Cocoon show and the first time the organization has hosted an on-campus event since the once-monthly Moth-Up events stopped last semester. Cocoon reintroduced its beloved storytelling event last week with stories focused on the topic "playing the long game." For the show's producers, Moth-Up fans and first-time attendees alike, Cocoon was worth the wait.

While the monthly Moth-Up events feature only student storytellers, Cocoon is unique because it provides Middlebury employees and community members to participate as well. This year, six storytellers took turns sharing their interpretation of the theme, all the while adhering to the three golden rules of the event's inspiration, the radio show "The Moth" — stories must be true, unscripted and under 10 minutes in length.

Following his introduction as "the voice of Davis Family Library," Circulation Services Specialist Mark Saltveit kicked off the evening by describing his evolution as a palindromist — a creator of words or phrases that have the exact inverse second half of the first half. Think "mom," "dad" or "radar kayak radar," a palindrome that a young Saltveit proudly developed himself.

Saltveit found a love for palindromes at a young age. Later, he took this childhood passion to a new level. As an adult, Saltveit was underwhelmed by the palindromes that his nemesis palindromist believed made him the "master palindromist." In collaboration with New York Times Crossword editor William Shortz, he helped organize a palindrome competition amongst his contemporaries, including his rival, to determine who was the best. Saltveit was ultimately named the first world champion of the word game he loved as a child.

Like Saltveit, Beckett Pintair '24.5 also began his story by describing his childhood. He framed the narrative using a recent phone call with his mom, during which he revealed his plans to add to the collection of tattoos he has accumulated over the last two years.

Pintair explained that from a young age, he sought different ways to escape, partially driven by a dyslexia diagnosis that made him feel like he had no control over his body. Pintair discussed a variety of ways he sought control throughout his childhood. One of the most helpful ways he's been able to practice self-love is through body art.

"I have not had that long of a life so far, so when I heard the theme "the long game," I immediately started thinking about the things I have been working towards and will be working on for the rest of my life," Pintair told The Campus. "Learning to love, live with, and accept myself is something that falls into that category for me."

Pintair concluded his story by announcing to the audience, which included his mom, that he will be getting another tattoo this Friday.

Next up was Assistant Professor of American Studies Karl Lindholm '67, who took the audience back to a time when Middlebury still had fraternities, required ROTC army courses and was in the midst of the Vietnam War.

Bouncing between college days, the war and the present, Lindholm interwove his personal experiences with those of friends who are no longer here to share their stories. One friend fled to Canada, one joined the radical anti-war movement, one survived the fighting in Vietnam and one was killed while traveling there.

In the silent concert hall, Lindholm poignantly whispered into the microphone that he considers each a casualty of the conflict.

He was followed by Hannah Alberti '26, who told a heartwarming tale about falling in love with her best friend. Her sweet story recalled all of the most important moments of falling in love with her now girlfriend, tracing friendship, identity exploration, fear of rejection, confession, unrequited pining and a rom-com-worthy conclusion.

"My story was actually just the first thing I thought of when I heard the theme "playing the long game," Alberti said of her story. "I love telling people about how my girlfriend and I got together; I almost never shut up about her. From there, it was just figuring out which details were the most necessary/funny and the exact order of events."

Alberti concluded her story by waving to her girlfriend who was watching the performance via livestream, as the audience clapped at the touching moment.

Next, Assistant in Arabic Raghad Sayyed smiled through the entirety of her inspirational story about "saying no to a no." As a student determined to study languages abroad, Sayyed took the audience through the multi-year process of convincing her father that she was ready to travel and live alone, pointing out to him that if one of her brothers had asked the same thing, they would not have faced such scrutiny.

Calling in backup from her father's best friend, Sayyed finally convinced him to be allowed to study abroad in Italy and then pursue a Middlebury program in Jordan, where she excelled and was asked to interview to be the Arabic TA at the Middlebury campus in Vermont. When she told her parents that the TA position was in the United States, Sayyed's father said to her mother, "You have a crazy daughter." Nonetheless, Sayyed's story concluded with her father vocalizing how proud he is of her journey.

The evening concluded with Youness Cheboubi '24.5's performance. Cheboubi had the audience laughing for the majority of his story, a testament to the fact that the long game is not always the way to go. The realization came amidst an early adventure at the beginning of a spontaneous gap semester last spring.

On a trip to Brazil to visit a friend who was studying abroad, Cheboubi decided to venture out on his own one day. It went horribly wrong.

As he described and acted out the movements of his jog to a nearby mosque, the people he encountered and even a fierce battle with three rabid dogs, Cheboubi transformed the concert hall into the roads, fields and communities he found there. He ultimately decided that he did not want to play the long game when it came to rabies.

Between stories, the audience responses to the prompt, "The greatest scheme you've ever attempted," were read from the scraps of paper submitted at the beginning of the evening. Answers included a camp counselor teaching young kids about communism, one person's creative reevaluation of daylight savings and another's never-ending search for a nonexistent flamethrower.

Attendees shared how impressed they were by the evening. "My favorite part of the event was seeing the joy on the storytellers faces after they finished telling a story that clearly meant a lot to them," Iris Ethier '24 said . "I was really impressed by their bravery to share so openly in front of a large crowd."

Joshua Glucksman '25 agreed that the vulnerability of the event is one of the things that makes the show so special. "Storytelling is actually such a radical form of community building. The vulnerability I saw that was stripped of background music, a script or any visuals, felt extremely human," Glucksman said.

After seeing the event, Ethier, Glucksman and others were left so enchanted that they mentioned wanting to partake as performers someday. With the cherished event back up and running, it is always possible we will get to hear some of the attendees last Friday speak as featured storytellers at next year's Cocoon.

COURTESY PHOTO

At Cocoon 2023 Beckett Pintair explained to the audience how getting tattoos has become a way for him to practice self-love.

"DAD ROCK": A MUSICAL INVESTIGATION INTO MASCULINITY

By JONATHAN EATON
Staff Writer

COURTESY PHOTO

The music from Dad Rock was inspired by classic rock favorites, including Bruce Springsteen.

In an evening of fatherhood, brotherhood, toxic masculinity and death, "Dad Rock," Beck Barsanti '24.5's acting thesis explored what it means to be a man in the modern world. The work opened on Nov. 2 and was directed by Gavin Richards '25.5, Bri Beach '23.5 and Maggie Blake '24.

Situated between "Greek Tragedy," a play about the impacts of being an influencer, and "The 25th Annual Putnam Spelling Bee," a show about middle school angst and social pressures at a spelling Bee, "Dad Rock" added a nuanced maturity to the Middlebury theatre scene this semester. It is a grounding story for the season, exploring the complexities of manhood across time periods and settings.

Barsanti's play strings together scenes from playwrights Tolkien, Mitchel, Shepard, Melville, Stoppard and more to explore manliness. At times, Barsanti takes on the roles of brother, God, captain, father and actor.

"'Being a man,' to me, has nothing to do with bottling emotions, protecting anything, or toughing things out. Being a man today means doing whatever brings you closer to why you are comfortable with a masculine identity, whether that's a male identity or not," Barsanti wrote in an email to The Campus.

The show opens with a short scene featuring two hobbits before giving way to a 1970s home in southern California where Sam Shepard's brothers Lee (Barsanti) and Austin (Owen McCarthy '25) sit at a table discussing plans for an upcoming trip. Though Lee is an alcoholic and a thief, while Austin is a successful playwright, Lee claims to be a better storyteller because he has lived in the West. In a later scene, the brothers' mother (Charlotte Roberts '25.5) returns to her own house only to find it trashed by her sons, who are fighting about their own ambitions. Austin ends up slaying his brother so that he can escape, viscerally demonstrating the violent combination of ego and toxic masculinity.

Next, the performance jumps back a few hundred years to the medieval world of Jared Michael Delaney's "Falstaff and the Endless Machine." Jack, a young, honorable man, seeks justice for Doll's (Annabelle Iredale '23.5) abuser. Self-conscious of the stigma attached to her work as a prostitute, Doll reminds Jack that despite his noble efforts, men of status and class will always escape justice because the sheriff does not care about the law, only about money.

Eventually, Jack's character bleeds into Hades, beginning with a song from Anais Mitchell '04's "Hadestown." Hades, with his deep, booming bass voice and leather attire, embodies masculine strength and control. He commands his workers to build him a wall to protect his kingdom, urging them to keep out the enemy, political opposition and views that challenge his own. Hades builds an echo chamber, a cordoned-off world view. In a later scene, Hades sings about his fear of Orpheus cracking his world order, threatening his domain, his position in society and his masculinity.

In addition to the dystopian masculine insecurities of Hades, Barsanti illustrates the dysfunctional and chaotic sexual desires that interfere with his fatherhood through performing an excerpt from "Coffin." In this scene, an alcoholic dad tries and fails to understand and connect with his teenage son. It highlights key factors of adolescent independence like driving, drinking and having one's first sexual relationship, while also illustrating the fragility of life. In the end, the father commits suicide, leaving his son with an empty home with nowhere to go.

Ultimately, "Dad Rock" ends with the futility of death. The penultimate scene of the show is from Tom Stoppard's "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead." The two young lads resignedly accept that they would die at the behest of Lord Hamlet. They attempt to kill an actor who is on board their ship to London but are outwitted. The actor's durability helps them discover the futility of their prognosis because they are only dead on paper.

Students and community members who attended the performance reflected on the play's intense emotionality allegories of masculinity.

"I would absolutely recommend it. I just love the actors and their intensity, the rigorousness of the show... there were definitely some true emotions coming out," Gabe Rocama Katowitz '26.5 said.

Melissa Powderson, a family friend of Barsanti who worked with him during his high school theatre performances, also mentioned the strong emotions she observed during the show.

"I thought it was really amazing and it was very intense. To change from the different emotions between the scenes was so incredible that one could be present from one scene to the next. It was magnificent and all the actors were incredible," Powderson said.

By somewhat chaotically combining nine divergent scenes about masculinity and fatherhood by seven different playwrights, Barsanti illustrates the fragility and futility of toxic masculinity. He helps his audience escape the institutions which "help us to forget the pain rather than confront it; asking us to feel anything but the feeling itself." directors Gavin Richards, Bri Beach and Maggie Blake wrote in the director's note.

Adam Glazer, illustrator en garde

By ACADIA KLEPEIS
Arts & Culture Editor

Frequent visitors to Little Seed Coffee Roasters may recognize its most artistic regular, often perched on one of the coffee shop's trademark millennial pink chairs, notebook and pencil in hand.

His name is Adam Glazer, and he works as a freelance illustrator based in Middlebury. After earning his BFA from the Cleveland Institute of Art in 1998, Glazer worked as a storyboard artist for independent films in Cleveland before moving to Vermont in 2003. He lived in Burlington for roughly a decade, where he became involved in the gallery scene, and eventually took up residence in Middlebury.

ADAM GLAZER/COURTESY PHOTO

Adam Glazer designed tee shirts for the Champlain Cup fencing competition.

He spent a stint as an in-house production designer at Addison County printer the Little Pressroom for several years prior to becoming a full-time freelance artist.

Glazer has had his own online studio since the late 90s named "Studio Inner Sanctum," inspired by the television show, "Dark Shadows." On the studio's website, Glazer shares information about recent projects, a gallery of past work and links to his online store.

Perhaps Glazer's most exciting upcoming plan is to develop an original graphic novel.

"It's mostly dark medieval fantasy, kind of like 'Game of Thrones,' but with the plague doctor," Glazer told The Campus. Fascinated by medieval and renaissance imagery, Glazer is still in the process of worldbuilding and remains focused on drafting the plot and storyboarding.

Ultimately, he intends to self-publish the novel using an online platform. "I would love to have it done within three years," he added.

With a big project such as this graphic novel, Glazer generally prefers to begin drafting outlines and concepts with physical materials before completing the final illustrations on his iPad.

He referenced structuring a work routine as one of the most difficult and most important parts of being a self-employed artist. "Time management can be the bane of ourselves," Glazer said, smiling ruefully.

"You have to be mindful about your working process," he added. "So what I do is I go for a walk, I go there to the coffee shop, take out my sketchbook and draw by hand to work out a problem."

Treating Little Seed as a dedicated work environment is one strategy Glazer uses to boost productivity because it takes him away from temptations and distractions at home.

Another key aspect of working as a freelancer is chasing clients. Glazer jokingly compared the work of a freelancer to that of a bounty hunter. "[You] have to hustle to get the job or contract," Glazer explained. "It's also about marketing yourself." In addition to face-to-face conversations and word of mouth, Glazer relies on social media and Zoom to create relationships with clientele.

Glazer is severely hearing impaired, and some of his regular clients include fellow members of the local deaf and hard of hearing community. For instance, Glazer did design work on the logo for Vancro, a nationwide group of ASL interpreters with a satellite office in Vermont.

Glazer also frequently creates works for his fellow fencers, a hobby he has enjoyed since beginning taking fencing lessons fifteen years ago. He is a key member of the Vermont Fencing Alliance, under the Green Mountain Division, for which he has designed several logos and t-shirts. Nowadays, he also works as an assistant coach for beginning fencers.

Real-life swordplay also appears on the page as an influence on Glazer's personal illustrations. "Fencing allows me to understand how bladework works, so if I'm doing a fencing scene in comics, it's hard to fake it," he said.

A sword is featured in Glazer's recent collaboration with the Middlebury Skatepark Project. Skatepark president Ethan Murphy approached Glazer about creating a piece for auction, whose proceeds would benefit the group. In thinking of a piece for the auction, Glazer was inspired by an exhibition he saw in the past that used snowboards as canvases.

"I've always been curious about what it's like to do illustration work for a skateboard," he said. "It's really fascinating because of the composition constraints."

The final illustration features a crowned skeleton holding a sword surrounded by a banner that reads "non omnia viscera inglorius" — "no guts, no glory" in Latin.

As Glazer works to grow back his business post-pandemic, another crisis looms.

"The biggest problem now is artificial intelligence," Glazer said. He currently relies on a program called Nightshade to prevent his artwork from being used by AI but is eager to see the government pass legislation that offers more widespread protection and royalties to artists.

ADAM GLAZER/COURTESY PHOTO

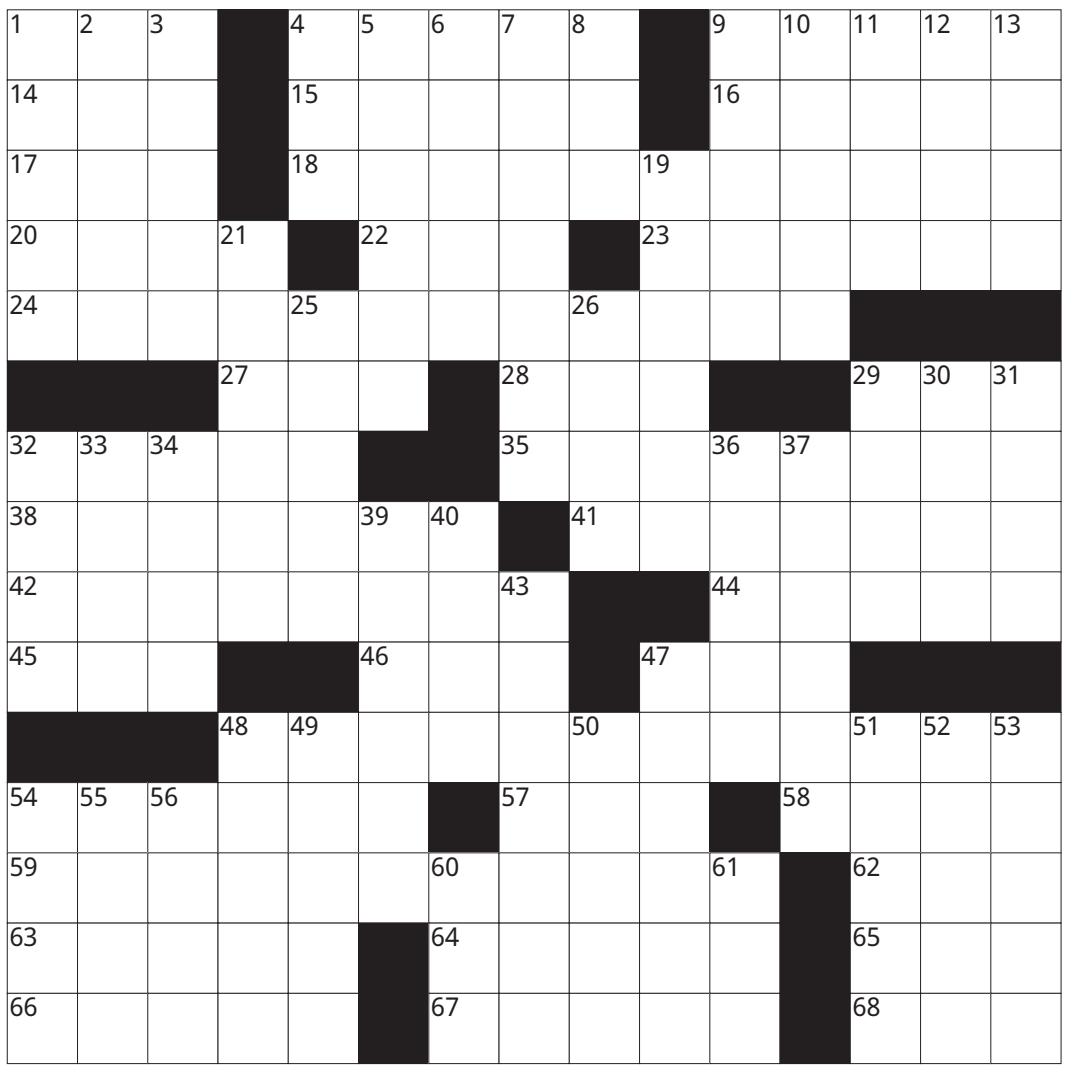
Adam Glazer creates concept art on the Art Studio Pro app.

"It's one of those forefronts that all of those visual artists, voice actors, actors, writers, journalists and whatnot have to be widely concerned about," Glazer said.

In the meantime, Glazer is certainly not resting on his laurels — "I'm always doing research, brainstorming, always thinking 24/7 of other possibilities. It's nonstop in my head."

Layering Up

Egan Turner



ACROSS
1 Friend
4 Holds up
9 Dam opened in Egypt in 1970
14 "All The Stars" collaborator
15 Mexican monetary units
16 The 305
17 The only one at Midd. is found in McCullough
18 The name of a certain email company if it began selling gas?
20 Shred
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23 Hydrocarbon commonly found at a gas station
24 A dressy men's accessory a carpenter might wear?
27 MID___: Davis search engine
28 What Midd. might be to a Brit
29 Pos. that "Big Brother" contestants battle for
32 Items on a daily list
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38 Along with 41-Across, an autumn alias, and a hint to what's hidden in 18-Across, 24-Across, 48-Across, and 59-Across
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46 Rosetta Stone, on the New York Stock Exchange
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48 Feeling free of the flu?
54 Inventor of namesake coil's first name
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58 A grand one scores 4 runs
59 "WAP" rapper's glance?
62 "SNL" cast member Nwodim
63 1-Across in Asuncion
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65 A popular brand of one is named for 54-Across
66 Strength
67 Childish response to "No you don't!"
68 49-Down's initials

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4 Benedict Arnold was one
5 Discovered, to the British
6 Current Washington Capital T.J.
7 Printmaking technique
8 ... ... ---
9 1-Acrosses in Abruzzo
10 7 in Santo Domingo
11 Avril Lavigne lyric: "He ___skater boy"
12 Word of agreement
13 River 9-Across is found upon
19 Complete a sentence
21 Paint again
25 Squander
26 Be certain of
29 Repetitive greeting
30 What Battel is missing
31 Feminine pronouns
32 3 ___ = 1 TBSP
33 Barns or screeches
34 Jen Sellers is the first-year one
36 Chump
37 Ring-shaped islands
39 What a cow might wear
40 Big Time ___
43 Colored wood
47 Often confused with herons
48 Burgin is one operated by the Mountain Club
49 "The Wasteland" poet
50 "This isn't my first ___"
51 What Louisiana, Virginia, and Kentucky voted to do on Tuesday
52 Long stories
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54 Middlebury is in its Division III
55 Pet food brand
56 Mom of Kim, Kylie, Kourtney, Khloe, Kendall, and Rob
60 Anagram of an aunt in Argentina
61 Greek letter used for density in physics

LA CELEBRACIÓN DE LA MUERTE Y VIDA: THE CELEBRATION OF LIFE AND DEATH

By JUNE SU & KANA DECOSTE
Contributing Writers

In the spirit of Dia de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, a lively group of students, faculty and community members united across campus on Thursday, Nov. 2 for the second year in a row to celebrate and honor loved ones who have passed.

The group began its procession at the Anderson Freeman Resource Center, meeting churchgoers as they exited from a special Spanish mass at the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary on College Street. Assistant Professor of Theatre Olga Sanchez Saltveit, the original organizer of Middlebury's Día De Los Muertos celebration, enjoyed the church service.

"It was really beautiful," Sanchez Saltveit said. "Every month the Catholic Migrant Ministry of Addison County offers a mass in Spanish. For Día de los Muertos last year, they moved their mass that would have been at St. Peter's in Vergennes, they moved it here, and this year they did it again. They're providing transportation for community members to come to the Misa en Español."

The group then made its way to McCullough lawn, where individuals paid their respects at eight ofrendas, traditional Día de los Muertos altars, admiring the photos, candles, flowers, foods and drinks dedicated to lost loved ones. Finally, they climbed Chapel hill to watch various arts performances.

Christian A. Johnson Professor of Music Jeff Buettner led community members in a 'makeshift mariachi band' at the chapel; the Theatre department performed the folklore "La Llorona"; two roller skaters in calavera, or skull makeup, danced to a song by Weyes Blood; a group in traditional dress danced folklórico; and the "Culture as Creative Process" arts class performed on the tennis courts. Sanchez Saltveit then gave an address at an additional ofrenda in front of St. Mary's graveyard. People eventually headed to the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary for food as the colorful night came to a close.

In the weeks leading up to the holiday, various groups including the Pan-African, Latinx, Asian and Native-American (PALANA) social house, Alianza, Juntos and Creating Art Together contributed to a series of preparation workshops. Event organizer Ryan Ulen '26 described a workshop devoted to the painting of alebrije, fantastical creatures that are supposed to guide the dead back to the veil of the living.

Other workshops reflected the creativity of the Middlebury community. The crafty-workshops included picture frame painting in addition to mask and papel picado making. The colorful papel picado, or pecked paper, sheets could be seen hanging around campus in the days leading up the celebration. Champlain Valley-based Hearthunder Art Collective also hosted a workshop for building a large paper mâché calavera sculpture, affectionately known as Callie.

Among the eight ofrendas was one spread with a Palestinian flag backgrounded by several pages of names. PALANA Board Event Coordinator Crystal Zhou '23.5 described the intention of the altar.

"It would be a grave disservice to talk about the Day of the Dead without addressing the thousands of Palestinian civilians, largely made up of children, who have passed away as a direct result of Israeli occupation. We've decided to include the list of victims posted by the Palestinian Ministry of Health to call awareness to the genocide going on in Palestine," Zhou said.

At her final address by the cemetery, Sanchez Saltviet invited audience members to call out the names of someone in their life who has passed and for others to respond with "Que vive!" Sniffles could be heard as the crowd affirmed dozens of names with the phrase, which translates to "how alive!"

Charlie Grossman '26.5, a student performer on stilts, spoke on the personal significance of the holiday as someone who did not grow up celebrating Día de los Muertos. "Death is one of those things where the world doesn't give you any good answers, and religion and spirituality are one good way to make sense of all that stuff," Grossman said.

June Su & Kana DeCoste/The Middlebury Campus

The Dia de los Muertos celebration included performances from students and community members.

Enedina Pineda '27 has been celebrating the holiday with her family for as long as she can remember and reflected on the holiday's significance to her.

"We see death, and Día de los Muertos as a day to celebrate the death, and to kind of not be sad, but a day and moment to reflect on the memories you had with them," Pineda said.

The festivities served as a reminder of the joy that the people the attendees lost gave them. "They dance and they cry, it's building happiness," Enedina said.

Multiple people commented on the difference between celebrating here at Middlebury and at home with their families. Several attendees expressed how at Middlebury, they felt at times like they were in a position as educators, whereas, at home, they simply took part in the family-centered festivities, with more of an unspoken understanding of what the holiday means to them.

"It's definitely a different vibe, for the most part, you're teaching other people about the festival so you're just sharing your culture, versus back home you're just celebrating with everyone else," Sanchez Saltveit said.

Although Día de los Muertos celebrations at Middlebury may never be the same as celebrating at home with one's family, attendees such as Professor of Luso-Hispanic Studies Louis Castañeda reflected fondly on the evolution of Middlebury's Día de los Muertos traditions.

"This has grown a lot since I got here to Middlebury ten years ago. There were little things like a small altar or an ofrenda around campus, but now people are getting together to do this on a larger scale and it's more visible. I love it — I just want to invite everyone to come," Castañeda said.

Michele McCrew, a Middlebury community member and musician, did not know much about Día de los Muertos prior to the event. When contacted about playing trumpet in the mariachi band for the event, she conducted some research online and learned more when she actually participated in the festivities. Many people at the event were happy to share their culture as long as others were coming from a place of appreciation.

"It's heartwarming because as long as they're educated it's good. I have more of a respect for them because they are respecting something that I value," Enedina said.

Folklórico dancer Alexandra Valdivia '27 shared a similar appreciation for the educational element of the celebration.

"I'm very thankful for the opportunity and I am very happy we get to present it to the whole student body and not just the student body but the town itself, it's an open invite," Valdivia said.

Sanchez Saltveit also shared her perspective on the emotional and personal impacts of the holiday.

"It's just that it's a source of comfort, a source of strength, a source of community building. I'm not of Mexican heritage, but doing Día de los Muertos year after year and doing Latine identified things whether they are specifically Mexican or just Latinidad, and we're all in a room just being latine, deepens my identity as a Latine person," Sanchez Saltveit said.

Slipin Sips: Reflections on the Peripheral Wine Fair

"Slipin Sips" is a wine column written by Staff Writer Sam Lipin (hence the title, "Slipin"). As an amateur sommelier, Sam exists deep in the world of wine, particularly natural wine, and this column seeks to share the joy he finds in fermented grapes with the rest of the world.

By SAM LIPIN
Staff Writer

At this year's Peripheral Natural Wine Festival in Hudson, N.Y., I had the pleasure of tasting more than a hundred different wines, ciders, mead and everything in between, all of which were farmed organically and made through natural winemaking techniques without additives. The day was long, and although I'll still be recovering from my consumption by the time this piece comes out, I must fulfill my duty to report my findings. While the folks at Peripheral did include several purveyors of European wines, the fair worked to promote wines made domestically, especially those from the Hudson River Valley and the nearby Finger Lakes region.

These regions of New York State are typified by their cool climate and proximity to relatively large bodies of water that cool down the vines in the summer and warm them up in the winter. Vitis Vinifera grapes –– the "noble" varieties that hail from Europe, such as Pinot Noir and Chardonnay –– were first cultivated in the Hudson River Valley and the Finger Lakes region. In this manner, the wines of this region seek to be compared to those of similarly cold regions, namely Germany and northern France.

Even as climate change has worked in the favor of these regions, the wines that impressed me the most were not those imitations of European wines, but wines made from hybrid and indigenous grape varieties. Hybrid grapes are made by crossing European Vitis Vinifera grape vines with those native to America. Indigenous American grape vines are far more resistant to the harmful effects of freezing temperatures and fungal pressure, the two biggest plights for Vinifera around the world. Using hybrid grapes allows winegrowers to plant vineyards in even the coldest of climates.

To make sure we're on the same page, I will list some of the more popular grapes of this sort: Niagara, Catawba and Concord for the indigenous varietals; Frontenac Noir, la Crescent, Seyval Blanc and Itasca for the hybrids. The wines are typified by their rip-your-face-off acid, low body and alcohol content and prominent jammy fruit aromas mixed with a healthy dose of mossy wilderness. We've already talked about the natural wine producers in Vermont, many of which champion aforementioned hybrid varieties, so allow me to now introduce you to some pioneering natural hybrid wine producers of the Empire State.

Hudson Chatham Winery: I first tasted their wine at last year's fair and was absolutely wowed, so much so that I begged them to come to the Vermont Wine Fair 2022 hosted by Schmetterling Wine Shop. Steven Rosario and his husband Justen Nickell bought a small winery in Ghent, N.Y., in 2020 and began transitioning the land and wine from a conventional methodology to a regenerative, more natural-leaning style. The couple recently uprooted a large chunk of their wines to make way for 2,000 new plantings, choosing to start anew and leave the land's chemical-strewn past behind them. The wines they have made during the last three vintages have been sourced from organic vineyards in the Hudson Valley and Finger Lakes, and boy, do they sing! Rosario and Nickell display incredible creativity when it comes to wine, allowing their wines to be driven by taste rather than some purist ideal for what hybrid wines should be. While their simple, single variety wines are impressive, my favorite bottle of theirs is petillant natural (sparkling wine made naturally without the addition of commercial yeast or table sugar like they do in large production champagne) containing Seyval Blanc, Hudson Valley peaches and nectarines, as well as local hops. I mean… hello!

Wild Arc Farm: Across the Hudson and an hour south from Hudson Chatham Winery lies the biodynamic, permaculture-focused farm run by long-time Brooklynites Todd and Crystal Cavallo. Beyond making delicious wine using hybrids, Vitis vinifera and ingenious varieties alike, Wild Arc Farm has committed itself to building more sustainable and equitable food systems in the Hudson Valley and the greater New York State area. Two issues they are focusing on are a reduced overtime threshold for farmworkers and the transition of some of their cuvees to more sustainable bottling options, like canned wines. I tasted their canned Concord wine and was pleasantly surprised — it tasted of fresh black currant jam one might put on French toast. Other beloved wines we tasted included their 2022 Qamar Al-din, a skin contact co-ferment of the Cornell hybrid Aromella and Riesling, and their 2022 Blackbird, a co-ferment of Noiret and Riesling.

Chertok Wines: Lastly, returning back home to Vermont, we have the grape and apple wines of Max Rose. Hailing from Shoreham, Rose's goal has always been to supply the market with affordable New England wines made naturally through organic farm practices and low-intervention winemaking. Natural Vermont wines tend to demand a pretty penny, often costing between $35 and $60 per bottle, but Rose has been steadfast in selling his wines for around $25. All of his wines are made by co-fermenting estate-grown apples with hybrid grape varieties, creating an easy-drinking wine for any palette. Of the three winemakers mentioned in this article, Chertok wines are the easiest to find; you can get them at the Hare and the Dog in Middlebury.

Lest I ramble on and on, I'll cease here. For those interested in attending a wine fair near you, I would recommend looking into the RAW Wine festivals. Flouting a much more international lineup than Peripheral, RAW wine is the chief event space for natural wine exploration in the world. Check them out in New York (Nov. 12–13), Toronto (Nov. 15) and Montreal (Nov. 18–19).

Volleyball falls to Williams in closely contested quarterfinal

By CHARLES CROUNSE
Senior Sports Editor

Despite having plenty of moments to cheer for their team throughout the match, Middlebury volleyball fans left Pepin Gymnasium in silence at the end of Sunday's NESCAC quarterfinal as Williams College walked away with a 3–2 win. The Panthers now await their fate in the national tournament as a selection committee assigns the at-large berths.

Middlebury looked strong in the opening set, emerging 25–20 victors after running away from Williams in the final few points.

"In the first set we definitely showed up and played our game," said Molly Harrison '27, who recorded 15 kills and led the team with three service aces.

The Ephs responded, taking the second set 25–21, despite a late rally from the Panthers. A lapse of concentration in the third set allowed Williams to gain a comfortable 10 point advantage. Despite another late surge from Middlebury, the hosts could not catch up, falling 25-21 for the second consecutive set. With the game on the line, the Panthers needed to deliver in the fourth set. After a back and forth affair, they did exactly that, snagging a 27–25 win and taking the match to the decisive fifth set.

The sides remained close until the end, when Williams ran away to claim a 15–10 win in the set and a 3–2 win in the match overall.

"There were moments where we were very much not playing like ourselves and that's where we lost," Harrison said. "I'd love to say that if both teams played at their best then we would be the better team, but it just wasn't our day."

The loss felt premature for the strong Panthers team, who entered the tournament as the third seed and harbored ambitions of winning the program's first NESCAC title since 2016. If they are overlooked for the national tournament, it will mark an abrupt end to an otherwise rosy season for Middlebury, who finished the regular season 7–3 in the conference and 15–8 overall.

"It's rough to get out early but we had some really great games," Harrison said. "The games where we played our best are a better reflection of our season and who we are as a team."

Middlebury certainly did score some notable performances across the season. After a slow start to the year, the team notched a six game win streak through the last two weeks of September, with four of those wins finishing as 3–0 shutouts. The Panthers continued their red-hot form at the New England Challenge, where they went two for three, handing Springfield College just their second loss of the season and Babson College their fourth. By the end of the season, the Panthers earned a second place ranking in their NCAA region, keeping their hopes for a national tournament berth afloat.

A number of landmark achievements marked the Panthers' season this year. Harrison was tabbed as the NESCAC player of the week on Oct. 23 after recording 21 kills in the Panthers' victory over Babson. She has recorded 297 kills on the season, putting her on track for fourth in the program's all time statistics. Gabbie O'Toole '25 became just the fifth player in the program's history to eclipse 2,000 assists, currently sitting on 2,404 and on pace to move up to second in the all-time charts. Kelly Ferrero '23.5 broke the 1,000 career digs mark, finishing the season with 280 in total.

Fueled by these impressive performances, the Panthers overall earned the program's 500th win since the team's creation in 1994.

"A lot of us are wanting to focus on these moments that were really successful," Harrison said. "I wouldn't sacrifice anything to change what we had this season."

Editor's note: Lexi Linafelter '24 is a Sports Editor and a captain of the women's volleyball team.

The volleyball team lost 3-2 to Williams in front of a home crowd. CHARLIE DEICHMAN-CASWELL / THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

MEN'S SOCCER FACES FIRST DEFEAT, KNOCKED FROM NESCACS IN SEMIFINALS

By JOSH ROSENSTEIN
Staff Writer

Following an undefeated season, Middlebury men's soccer finally met its match this past weekend, falling 2–1 to a plucky Tufts University in a NESCAC semifinal matchup. The win marked a significant upset as the fourth seeded Jumbos knocked off the top-ranked Panthers on their home turf.

Amherst College went on to capture the NESCAC title after defeating Connecticut College in the semifinals and blanking Tufts 1–0 on Sunday.

Middlebury flew through the regular season, earning a 7–0–3 record in conference play, good enough for top spot heading into the playoffs. By the time they closed out their regular season, the Panthers boasted a 11–0–4 record overall and were ranked third in Division III.

After seeing off Williams College in the quarterfinals, Middlebury faced off against Tufts for the second time this season. In the sides' first encounter, Middlebury had soundly beaten their opponents 3-0. The second contest proved to be a much stiffer challenge.

The Panthers found themselves down early into the game after a miscue on a backward pass led to an own goal. With a few minutes left in the first half, captain Luke Madden '24.5 headed in the equalizer off a free kick. Although Middlebury dominated most of the second half, a stunning strike from outside the box gave Tufts the 2-1 lead 10 minutes into the half, an advantage they held onto until the final whistle.

"We're disappointed by the outcome but remain proud of how the team competed — we will learn from the experience and move forward together," wrote assistant men's soccer coach Ben Potter '20 in an email to The Campus following the game.

The Panthers now turn their attention to the NCAA tournament, where they will host the first two rounds for four teams. On Saturday, Nov. 11, Middlebury faces off against Western New England University at 11 a.m. The winner will compete against the winner of Babson College versus Johns Hopkins University on Sunday for a place in the Sweet Sixteen.

"We are certainly excited to be selected as a host for the opening rounds of the national tournament," Potter wrote. "It's a great privilege to play at home and this group will be ready for the challenge."

The Panthers will hope that their loss to Tufts was nothing more than a blip in an otherwise strong season. If they can get back to their winning ways, a deep run in the national tournament may well still be in the cards.

Luke Madden '24.5 (#13) celebrates a goal against Tufts. The goal was Madden's fourth of the season. ANNA SAWIN / COURTESY PHOTO

The growing legacy of Middlebury Club Soccer

By Eli DiBari
Contributing Writer

As Vermont's bright foliage gives way to the crisp chill of winter, the Middlebury Club Soccer season has drawn to a close. With the final whistle of the season already blown, it is time to reflect on the triumphs of this past season on the turf.

Middlebury Men's Club Soccer (MCS) finished the fall with one of their most successful seasons to date. The first team closed with a record of 7–2–2, while the second team remained unbeaten with a record of 3–0–0.

Early in the season, the MCS first-team toppled opponents from around New England, dominating Southern New Hampshire University with a 5–0 win, outscoring a strong Dartmouth College A squad 4–1 and overpowering University of Vermont (UVM) B 3–1. They faced some tough losses later in the fall to University at Albany and to Route 7 rivals, UVM-A. Nonetheless, the team's strong record and positive goal differential awarded the team the top spot in their division and a bid to the National Intramural and Recreational Sports Association (NIRSA) Region 1 Regional Tournament in Stony Brook, N.Y. This advance marked the first regional tournament berth for the club.

Despite being the smallest school by enrollment, Middlebury stepped up against the other larger programs at the regional tournament. They faced top-ranked U.S. Naval Academy in their first game, holding them scoreless for a 0–0 tie. MCS then bested Stevens Institute of Technology with a 2–1 win before tying Tufts University 0–0 in the last group stage game. The 1–0–2 record at the tournament did not earn Middlebury a spot in the quarterfinals, but the group left Long Island proud of their accomplishments.

Back at home, the MCS second team wrapped up a strong season in its second year of development. The Panthers prevailed twice against Norwich University, winning 9–0 and 7–1, and staged a 2–1 upset against All-Black FC, a men's league team from Burlington.

MCS co-presidents and co-founders Blaise Siefer '23.5 and Marco Fengler '23.5 were proud of how far the club has come in just a few short years since its creation in 2019.

"It has been incredible to see the progress we've accomplished since freshman year," Siefer said. "Going from a patchwork group playing unofficial games to becoming a top finisher in our division and a regional contender, while simultaneously becoming one of the largest clubs on campus, feels pretty good."

This year's team was remarkably young, with over 20 first-years on both teams. Though their experience in college play was limited, the young players made an immediate impact — along with Fengler, the MCS first team's top four goal scorers were Rialto Janairo '26, Deco Siefer '27 and Jack Dunlop '27. Despite the program graduating nearly ten seniors this year, the future of MCS is bright.

As the team turns over, its alumni base is rapidly growing, with two alumni players making the trip to Stony Brook to support the team at regionals and many contributing to the team's mammoth $6,200 fundraising haul.

Middlebury Women's Club Soccer also had a successful fall, kicking off its first recognized competitive season with a growing group of players and solid regional competition.

Led by co-presidents Tessa Husted '25.5 and Robin Potter '24.5, the team faced off against opponents from around New England in the NIRSA Region 1 league. The fledgling team came together for some impressive performances and made immense progress throughout the season, highlighted especially by their defeat of long-time rival and regional champion, Dartmouth.

When reflecting on the year, Husted said the team fulfilled her desire to have a fun and competitive atmosphere in college after playing sports in high school. The group of women who came together to create a committed team exceeded her expectations.

"When things got going in the fall, [Potter and I] were overjoyed to witness such enthusiasm for the club," Husted wrote in an email to The Campus. "We even had over 50 players show up for several 6 AM practices."

Looking forward to the spring, both the men's and women's teams are not allowed to hold another season due to the Student Activities Office's regulations for Tier III programs. Both teams will continue to seek recognition as a Tier II program and advocate for the opportunity to continue to play competitively.

From their humble roots back in 2019, this season was marked by success on the pitch and program growth for both the men's and women's teams. With their quality play on the field and devoted camaraderie across campus, Middlebury Club Soccer will continue to make a lasting impact on the college's club sports landscape.

The men's club soccer team was founded in 2019 and played its first competitive season in 2021.

Eli DiBari / The Middlebury Campus

FIELD HOCKEY CAPTURES NESCAC CHAMPIONSHIP FOR SIXTH STRAIGHT YEAR

Will Costello / Courtesy Photo

Middlebury field hockey is the most celebrated program in NESCAC history with 10 championships league titles

By Owen Park
Sports Editor

We are starting to run out of superlatives to shower on the Middlebury field hockey team, but one word in particular came to mind during Sunday's NESCAC Championship game: inevitable.

By the game's end, it was hardly a surprise to see Middlebury holding the champions banner as they celebrated their sixth consecutive and tenth ever NESCAC title. The Panthers' win marked the first time a NESCAC field hockey program has captured a double-digit number of titles.

The team also scored wins against Trinity College and Amherst College in the quarterfinals and semifinals of the NESCAC tournament on Oct. 28 and Nov. 4, respectively.

From start to finish, the Panthers were relentless in their attack, topping Williams College in shots 30–6, shots on goal 15–1 and corners 10–3. Suffice to say, the question on everyone's minds was not whether the Panthers would win, but by how much.

It is no exaggeration to say that this season has been nothing short of legendary for the Panthers. The conference final game capped off a march through the NESCAC and, beyond that, saw the team post an 18–0 record and clinch the number 1 national ranking, all without conceding more than two goals in a game, and earning 10 shutouts. Time and time again, the field hockey team continues to prove why they are one of the most celebrated varsity programs at Middlebury.

While players and fans alike look towards the NCAA tournament with hopeful hearts, they should also be looking at the team's long-term future with the same enthusiasm. A majority of the contributors to the Panthers' win on Sunday came from those who will be returning to Peter Kohn Field next year. Caroline Segal '24.5, Amy Griffin '24.5 and Lilly Branka '24.5 each recorded a goal while posting six, five and three shots respectively. Griffin particularly shone in this tournament, tallying four goals to equal the all-time team record for NESCAC playoff goals.

Sadie LeStage '24 was named the NESCAC Player of the Week for her performance in the NESCAC tournament games. LeStage started and played all 60 minutes in both the teams' semifinal and final games, scoring an assist in each of those competitions. A midfielder, LeStage is tied for second on the team in assists and has tallied three goals throughout the season, two of those being game-winning points.

The Panthers enter the NCAA national tournament as the top ranked team and will begin their journey this Saturday, Nov. 11 in Mechanicsburg, Pa.